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THE TIMES



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FRIDAY
30p
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Brown aims to make £12 bn from assets sale

Tote, Mint and air traffic control put up for sale

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

A SURPRISE £12 billion programme of state sell-offs to finance investment in health, education and transport was unveiled by Gordon Brown yesterday. The Chancellor's announcement means that the squeeze on public spending will be maintained until the next election.

A majority stake in Britain's air traffic control system is to be sold; the Royal Mint and horse racing's Tote will be further privatised, and some motorway service stations will be offered up to private companies. Local authorities are expected to realise £2.75 billion a year from property sales.

But in a move to put pressure on the Cabinet in the final weeks of Whitehall's difficult spending review, the Chancellor announced that growth in current public spending, which covers the pay of million of workers, will be limited to 2.25 per cent until the end of the present Parliament.

He confirmed that the annual round of spending negotiations is to be scrapped for the remaining years before the next election, and that when the comprehensive spending review is completed during the next few weeks ministers will be agreeing spending deals to cover the next three years. Spending rises will have to be

WHAT LABOUR SAID ON PRIVATISATION

In October 1996, at the last Labour Party conference before the general election, Andrew Smith, the current Employment Minister, told delegates: "The Tories have dreamt up a crazy new scheme to privatise the air. They want to flog off the National Air Traffic Control Services... Labour will do anything we can to block this self-off... Our air is not for sale."

Yesterday, the Government said it will allow private investors to take a 51 per cent stake in National Air Traffic Services, which is responsible for air traffic control.

In February last year, Robin Cook, the current Foreign Secretary, was incensed by reports that suggested Labour would privatise the Tote. He insisted: "I can authoritatively bring down the curtain on this story. There have been no discussions in the Shadow Cabinet about the sale of the Tote. There will be no proposal by Labour to sell the Tote."

Mr Brown's statement yesterday included a plan to sell off... the Tote.

Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, claimed that the spending review had failed to come up with real savings and mocked Mr Brown for his conversion to privatisation. However, the Chancellor's opponents pointed out that spending growth during the Parliament would be slower than the average under the Tories.

Mr Brown, in his attempt to prevent a return to the years of boom-and-bust, is aiming for surpluses on the current budget ranging from £7 billion next year to £13 billion in 2001. Current spending, including pay bids from the public sector, will have to be met by tax revenues.

But the continued squeeze on current spending will be matched by a gradual relaxation on capital spending to allow the level of public investment as a share of national wealth to be doubled from 0.75 per cent during the Parliament. Taken with the sale of state assets, that will free capital investment of £29 billion a year by the next election.

Mr Brown said that he was trying to break with the old fashioned, short-termist culture. For 30 years British public spending had been dogged by an annual spending round rather than long-term planning, a year-to-year Continued on page 2, col 5

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Brown: "Too much attention to current spending and muddling through, too little to long-term investment"

Racing fears it will lose funds

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE possibility of the Tote being fully privatised, with racing losing millions of pounds, sent a shudder through the sport last night.

Racing in Britain is already badly funded compared with other nations. Only 1 per cent of betting turnover is returned to its coffers, and the Tote is one of its main sources of income: in 1997, £7.9 million of the Tote's £12.8 million

profit went back to racing. The main fear of the sport's leaders is that Gordon Brown's plan to extend the Tote's partnership with the private sector will place that cash in jeopardy.

Tristram Ricketts, chief executive of the British Horseracing Board, said yesterday: "We made clear in our financial plan that the further development of the Tote is a key component of racing's self-help initiatives."

Since Peter Jones succeeded Lord Wyatt of Woodford as chairman of the

Tote, the pool betting organisation has extended its private sector involvement and entered into deals with Ladbrokes, the bookmakers, and Sporting Index, the spread-betting specialist.

Just how far Mr Brown wishes to see the Tote extend its private sector involvement is unclear, but senior Home Office and Treasury sources insisted last night: "It would be foolish to rule out any options."

Racing, page 47

Frost in June is forecast

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

WEATHER forecasters issued a frost warning last night after one of the coldest June days on record.

The National Meteorological Centre said temperatures had fallen to ten degrees below average. Snow brought temperatures down even further at Avicmore.

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Switzerland Sfr 300; USA \$ 50.



Inquiry forces prep school head to resign

By VICTORIA FLETCHER AND SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE veteran headmaster of a distinguished prep school has been forced to resign after an unprecedented intervention by the Department for Education.

Robin Lindsay, 69, quit after 26 years as headmaster of the £7,800-a-year Sherborne Preparatory School following a report by Dorset social services and an investigation by officials from the department.

He was banned from the school on May 28, only a month before he was due to retire.

A question mark now hangs over plans for a service at Sherborne Abbey for hundreds of parents, past pupils and staff later this month to mark his retirement.

Officials from the Department of Education and Employment said yesterday they were "deeply concerned" by

the findings of the investigation into the headmaster and "had the interest of the children at heart" in seeking his resignation.

A statement by the department last night said Mr Lindsay left because he "was not a proper person to be the proprietor of an independent school, or a teacher or an employee in any school and he had not safeguarded the welfare of pupils."

The department does not have the power to sack heads of independent schools, but made it clear to Mr Lindsay that resignation would be "the most appropriate action". They refused to comment further.

Stephen Byers, the minister in charge of schools standards, has agreed to set up an independent schools tribunal to hear an appeal by Mr Lindsay.

Close friends said yesterday that he was "shattered" by his forced resignation from a school he had devoted his life to for 45 years. Dorset police said they were not involved.

Mr Lindsay was investigated by police and education officials two years ago over his conduct, after parents complained that he invited boys to his study after school hours. No charges were brought and Mr Lindsay said the allegations were a smear campaign.

He has said that he is "confident" of clearing his name.

Last night parents demanded a statement from the school and education officials.



Lindsay, confident of clearing his name

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Lynne Truss

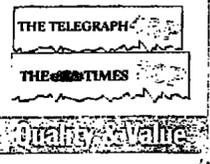


Peter Brookes



Matthew Parris

With The Daily Telegraph costing 45p on weekdays and 75p on Saturdays, readers save £1 a week by buying The Times.



Literary queen Catherine Cookson dies

By ALAN HAMILTON

DAME Catherine Cookson, the illegitimate daughter of an alcoholic mother whose novels have sold 110 million copies in 17 languages, died yesterday at her home in Newcastle upon-Tyne nine days short of her 92nd birthday.

Announcing her death last night her agent, Anthony Shiel, said her family were desperately upset at the news. She had been ill for several years, and latterly bedridden, by a rare blood disorder which in earlier life had prevented her from having children. She is survived by Tom, her husband of 58 years.

Not so much a successful novelist as a publishing phenomenon, Dame Catherine did not start writing until she was 44, but still managed to produce 70 books, and left a cupboard full of manuscripts that will ensure a seamless output for at least ten years to come. Her 100th novel will be published posthumously to mark the millennium.

Dame Catherine became one of Britain's most successful literary exports across the world; thousands of tourists annually follow the Cookson trail around her native Tyne-side. Last year nine out of the ten most popular library books borrowed in Britain were Cookson's.

Last night Angela Arney, chairman of the Romantic Novelists' Association, paid tribute to her: "She didn't just write romantic novels, but social history."

Lord Archer, a trailing rival in the popular fiction market,



Cookson: a publishing giant of our times

declared: "They will read her in 100 years in the way they read Dickens, as a commentary of those times."

Ray Marshall, the television producer who has brought 15 Cookson adaptations to the small screen, said: "She was the kind of writer that made you want to turn every page to see what happened next. And she was a fantastic help to the North-East in every way you can think of, not only in terms of the money she gave, but also in bringing the North-East to a much wider public."

Romantic novelist was the last thing that Dame Catherine considered herself: "I don't write any sloppy slush," she told an interviewer last year. She was dismissed by intellectuals and sneered at by London critics, but her popular fiction competitors were still left trailing in her wake.

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Esquire

"When we started doing Fantasy Football we'd get letters from girls. David had about three and I had about 2,000... he said it was because we were attracting a lot of rough women"

Frank Stinner Esq
"I believe in my heart that I could have been a professional footballer. Frank thinks I'm a rung above him on the ladder of being crap at football"

David Baddiel Esq
"The film companies would ask the secretaries, 'What do you think of Travolta?' And they'd say, 'Him? Yuck!'"

John Travolta Esq
"My darkest moment was when I was eating two chickens a day"

Jonah Lomu Esq



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VW ad rips off my work, says Turner winner

By CAROL MIDDLETON, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE winner of this year's Turner Prize is taking legal action over a new Volkswagen Golf commercial which, she says, plagiarises her art.

Gillian Wearing claims that the television advertisement, which shows characters holding up cards bearing descriptions that contrast with their actual appearance, is a copy of her own award-winning series, *Signs*.

For her collection, Wearing invited people in the street to write down what they were really thinking. The result was a set of acclaimed pictures which included a policeman holding up a card saying "Help!" and a slick businessman standing behind a card saying "I'm desperate." Another ordinary-looking person's board reads, "I have been certified as mildly insane."

In the £8 million VW Golf campaign, similar images are used. A macho-looking bouncer holds up a card saying "Sensitive", while a conventional suburban male commuter's sign says, "At weekends my name is Mandy."

The slogan at the end of the commercial reads: "Sometimes what you see isn't all you get." The campaign is designed to promote what Volkswagen claims are thousands of improvements to the new Golf.

Yesterday Wearing, 34, who won the £20,000 Turner Prize



The advertisement for the new Golf



A still from *Signs*, for which artist won award

for her video *Sixty Minutes' Silence*, showing 26 police officers struggling to stay silent and still for an hour, said that the similarities between the commercial and her series were obvious. Many fellow artists had

contacted her to tell her they had seen her work being imitated in the television commercial. She has put the matter into the hands of her lawyer, who has sent a letter to the agency.

"I have been told by my lawyer that I have a strong case", she said. "Everybody I know in the art world has been ringing me up to say they have seen it, even my mother who was quite upset about it. It is a rip-off of my work. They [the advertising agency] have used my idea. There are the self-penned messages, the disparity and self-deprecating humour. It is just the same. But they have never even spoken to me about it. Ideally I would like the campaign to stop altogether because I wasn't consulted."

Her series, whose full title is *Signs That Say What You Want Them to Say and Not Signs That Say What Someone Else Wants*, has featured in many exhibitions, in magazines and on television since she started it in 1992.

A spokesman for Interim Art, Wearing's agent, said: "She is not at all happy about this. A lot of people have come to her and said, 'We didn't realise you had done the Golf advert.' It's very galling for her."

Volkswagen referred all calls to the advertising agency BMP DDB, which said that the matter was in the hands of its solicitor.



In her own words: Gillian Wearing to expressing her feelings yesterday

Gymnast, 16, plunges 150ft to his death in crane prank

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A TEENAGE gymnast who loved adventure fell 150ft to his death after performing acrobatics on the job of a crane. David Bevan, 16, from High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, was seen "spinning around" on the job shortly before his fall. He had represented Britain in the under-13 national gymnastic squad.

Police investigating his death said that he appeared to have jumped off the crane after breaking into the building site at Wycombe General Hospital. A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said: "He appeared to have broken into the building site and climbed to a height of 150ft. Police went to the scene along with other emergency services. At 10.20pm he appeared to have jumped and was certified dead at 10.42pm." A post-mortem examination is to be carried out.

Richard Bowers, an advertising student, 21, saw David rocking backwards and forwards and spinning around on top of the crane. "Everyone thought it was a joke and that he was just drunk or something. We had heard shouting outside and assumed that it was a fight, but then we heard that some guy was on the crane. A lot of people had gathered around." Other eyewitnesses said they thought a joke may have turned into a tragedy.

Peter and Jane Bevan last night described their son as a keen and talented gymnast, an avid swimmer and water-sports enthusiast. Mr Bevan said gymnastics dominated his life, and his achievement in the sport filled his middle school years, culminating in selection for the under-13 national squad.

"He had a perfect and natural balance which enabled him to participate in all sports. He sampled everything he could, including horse riding, jet skiing and a bungee jump last month at Chelsea Bridge. He had an insatiable desire for experiencing everything exciting and adventurous. Describing his son as a well-

adjusted teenager who mixed with everyone, he added: "We are at a complete loss to understand why or how this devastating accident has occurred."

David had just completed most of his GCSE exams at Gillotts Comprehensive School in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and had applied for a place at Henley College in September.

The school's deputy headmaster, Kevin Howarth, said last night that he could believe David had climbed the crane for kicks, but not to kill himself. He said: "I suppose youngsters typically think of themselves as invulnerable in lots of ways, but he was not a stupid boy." Mr Howarth said



David Bevan: had just taken his GCSE exams

David, who was popular and full of life, had been due to take an examination paper today. He added: "His character would actually tell me he was a very laid-back individual. Taking exams is stressful for all students, but I don't think it was especially so for him. He gave the appearance of coping with exams very well."

He said PE staff, who had worked closely with David, who was also a member of the school rugby team, were particularly distraught.

A spokesman for the contractor, Taylor Woodrow, said last night that the company would be checking security to find out how the teenager had managed to enter the site and reach the top of the crane.

Church offers woodland burial for the eco-friendly

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England is to create a woodland site for inexpensive, environmentally friendly burials, in opposition to increasingly commercialised funeral services.

Biodegradable cardboard coffins or shrouds will be used in place of wood veneer caskets, with brass handles, and specially planted trees

will replace granite or marble grave-stones. The Right Rev Stephen Sykes, the Bishop of Ely, said yesterday: "The concept of woodland burials has gone miles beyond the preserve of environmental cranks. It has become mainstream."

His diocese is pioneering the scheme, which involves creating the woodland first. It is looking for a site of more than 35 acres. The aim is to encourage many varieties of flora

and fauna, so that relatives will want to visit and walk in a place where they feel comfortable. Church officials believe relatives often feel intimidated or depressed by the atmosphere of a crematorium or cemetery.

The intention is also to cater for the ageing "green" population. People who grew up in the 1960s and 1970s are felt by the Church of England to be increasingly unhappy

with the high-tech, modern funeral where everything is done for them. The diocese intends to form a new body, the Arbury Trust, to run the site. It is thought that the trust could be invited to set up similar sites in other dioceses.

The concept was devised by a Cambridgeshire country priest who used to be an advertising executive. The Rev Peter Owen-Jones, rector of Haslingfield, Harlow, and Great

and Little Eversden, said: "A lot of money has been made out of people's natural fear of death. Under current systems, everything is done for us. All anyone has to do is write a cheque and turn up, and that's it. That approach to death and dying is something we do not want to encourage. We anticipate an incredible demand. It is an alternative in an area where there are very few alternatives."

Blood spots 'prove who murdered Billie-Jo'

By JOANNA BALE

A FORENSIC expert told a court yesterday that 158 tiny blood spots on clothes worn by Sion Jenkins proved that he murdered his foster daughter, Billie-Jo.

Adrian Wain said there was no other explanation for the tiny spots on Mr Jenkins's jacket, trousers and shoes, matching Billie-Jo's blood. The clothes were held up in front of the jury at Lewes Crown Court as Mr Wain pointed to where he had found the spatterings.

He said: "If I was to swing the tent peg [the murder weapon] on to a surface which was wet with blood, blood is going to be thrown off, spots are going to be thrown forward and this is typical of that type of spattering."

Mr Jenkins, a former deputy headmaster who denies murdering Billie-Jo, 13, at the family home in Hastings, East Sussex, in February last year, claims the blood came from her body as he tended to her.

Mr Wain, of the Forensic Science Service London Laboratory, said the force of the blows must have been "considerable" and at close range to cause the tiny blood spattering. Asked if there were any other explanations for the pattern of blood spots on the arms and chest of the jacket and the front of the trousers, Mr Wain said: "No, not at all." The trial continues.

Horsewoman's lover gets life for stabbing

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A MAN who stabbed to death his former lover as she collected her belongings from the home they had shared was jailed for life yesterday.

Michael Parker plunged a steak knife in Fiona Barnes's heart because the successful amateur jockey had ended their stormy four-year relationship. After the stabbing, the fireman slashed his throat and tried to slit his wrists.

Miss Barnes' relatives sobbed in Carlisle Crown Court as Mr Justice Sachs told Parker, 34, that he had committed a "dreadful" crime. Earlier Henry Globe, QC, for Parker, told the court: "He has done a terrible wrong in ending the life of the person he loved most dearly."

Miss Barnes, the daughter of a vet, ran her own livery



Fiona Barnes: killed as she collected belongings

stables and competed successfully in cross country championships and point-to-point races. However, the long hours she spent with her horses were a constant source of irritation to Parker, the court heard. It was suggested that he wanted a housewife rather than a strong professional woman. The 28-year-old had moved out of the house in Kirkbampton, near Carlisle, several weeks before her death last October to live with a friend.

Tim Holroyde, QC, for the prosecution, said the relationship had always been stormy, largely because of his possessiveness. "He was jealous if she appeared friendly towards any other man, and constantly wanted to know where she was if she was not with him."

Parker, whose first wife left him in 1993 after an affair with his best friend, could not accept her decision. He later told police that when she arrived at the house, everything exploded in his head. He repeatedly stabbed her with the short steak knife, piercing her heart. Police discovered Miss Barnes lying dead on the bedroom floor. The knife was found in the kitchen, its blade bent at right angles.

Parker had pleaded not guilty to murder but admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

Doctor in quandary over broken equipment

By MARK HENDERSON

AN ANAESTHETIST whose 18-year-old patient died during dental treatment said yesterday that he had considered cancelling his operations that day because a crucial piece of equipment was broken.

Tapas Basu, 59, told the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee that he had been concerned about a broken capnograph machine, used to monitor carbon dioxide levels. For that reason he had nearly cancelled his entire theatre list the day in January 1996 that Kate Dougal died of heart failure under general anaesthetic. Dr Basu asked a nurse if other doctors had refused to anaesthetise patients because of a faulty machine, and would not have allowed operations to go ahead if other doctors had done the same, he said. "I was wondering if I would be falling out of step by cancelling. If anyone else would have cancelled, I would have cancelled."

The anaesthetist, who denies serious professional misconduct, is accused of failing to use crucial equipment in breach of guidelines, failing to use correct resuscitation procedures, and operating without adequate support staff.

Kate was being treated at a dental surgery in Long Eaton, Derbyshire. She died shortly after arrival at Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham. The hearing continues.

Final dismissal for a cricket lover

By TIM JONES

SID WRIGHT had a good innings. When he died, aged 86, while watching his village cricket team, the visitors thought the match would be cancelled out of respect.

Mr Wright was covered with a blanket and left in a chair in front of the pavilion until an ambulance came to take him away.

Then the home side at Over, Cambridgeshire, persuaded the team from the village of Strettham that Mr Wright, a life vice-president of the club, would

have wanted the match to continue. Let Cooke, Over's captain, said: "No one could have planned a better way to go. He was a wonderful and very dignified man who would not want to think he had caused a fuss. He only ever offered praise, never criticism."

"He always used to walk up the green every Saturday during the season from his home in the village and seemed well for his age. I carried out a chair for him and he appeared to be his normal self. But it can't have been much later that our chaps noticed all was not well. It was because of the very peaceful way he went

that he was left for a time because it was thought he was still asleep. He just faded away."

Mr Wright's family, he said, had been happy with the decision to carry on playing. "There was no real debate about whether the game would go on. It was not callous. It was really thought that is what he would have wanted. Cricket and the local day centre were his entire life."

Mr Wright himself, a useful bowler as a young man, would have been satisfied with the result of his final match: Over won by 31 runs.

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- (a) A generous 0%
- (b) A massive "I'm going to retire early" 3% (before tax).
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Scots' wigs cap it all in Paris fashion stakes

BY GILLIAN HARRIS AND ALAN HAMILTON

THEY are this summer's must-have style accessory. Worn at a rakish angle in Paris or pulled down to keep out the rain in Edinburgh, ginger wigs with tartan bonnets are as important to Scotland's football supporters as qualifying for the second round of the World Cup.

Shops which usually depend on tourists who have left their taste at home to pay £3.99 for the garish souvenirs have had their entire stock snapped up by football fans. Members of the Tartan Army in Paris wear them like a tribal uniform, while back home children as young as 5 are sporting the nation's favourite headgear.

In Scotland they are called See You Jimmy wigs, the catchphrase of the Scottish character created by Russ Abbott, the English comedian. The Glaswegian phrase draws a stranger into a conversation which quickly develops into an argument. A rough English translation might be: "Pardon my intrusion, but I

wonder if you would mind awfully if I disagreed with you."

Invented to poke gentle fun at Scots, the character who wore a kilt, string vest and braces, has been embraced as a hero in Scotland.

Abbott, whose mother was Scottish, honed his character on the basis of frequent holidays north of the border as a child. His agent said yesterday that the ginger wig had been no more than an accident, a stage prop that had belonged to the late comedian Dustin Cee, which Abbott had found and wondered what to do with.

According to Professor Ted Cowan of Glasgow University, the ginger wig phenomenon, along with blue and white face painting, represents a healthy sense of national pride. "At some point in the 1980s, young Scottish males took back the kilt as a badge of identity. Until very recently the kilt was an expensive, upper-class garment, but in the 1980s it was reclaimed,



Abbott credited with starting the craze

Face painting and the red bonnets are probably linked to that. They give supporters an immediately identifiable national identity. People say it derives from the film *Braveheart* but I think it dates from the Thatcher era."

The film struck a great chord in Scotland, celebrating as it did William Wallace's victory over the English at the Battle of Stirling Bridge,

which ranks with Bannockburn in some Scottish minds as the most significant win in the nation's history. Some football fans emulate a notable scene in the film, when Wallace's men terrify the English army by turning their backs on the enemy and lifting their kilts.

But Howard Khan of Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh has another theory. He remembers a time when several players in the Scotland team had red hair, including such footballing greats as Billy Bremner and Jimmy Johnstone.

The 1998 squad is devoid of a single redhead. "So perhaps the fans think that if they wear stereotypical ginger wigs it will give the team an advantage," he suggested.

For Thistle Products in Dalbeattie, Dumfries, the huge surge in popularity has been good for business. Employees have been working flat out since last winter to produce up to 7,000 wigs a week in preparation for the World Cup. "There has been an enormous increase in de-



See You Jimmy: Scots take the passion for red wigs and tartan bonnets to new lengths at the World Cup in Paris

mand," said Jim Boardman, the director. "I have had to take on extra staff to make more wigs. We are getting orders in every day from the shops we supply."

However, Mr Boardman takes exception to the claim that Abbott was the inventor of the ginger wig. He insists

that he came up with the idea in the early 1990s after seeing a clown wig with red hair and realising that it could be transformed into a Scottish souvenir. "I had some made up and took them to a trade show in Aviemore. I actually considered them to be quite naïf and kept them hidden

under the desk. I only showed them to a few people I thought might be interested. But the reaction I got was great. Everyone wanted some cheap and cheerful ginger wigs and the sales have increased every year since then."

"They have become popular because they are instantly

recognisable as Scottish," Mr Boardman said. "Everyone knows Scots are supposed to have red hair and wear tartan bonnets. That's why tourists take them home so that their friends can tell right away that they have been to Scotland."

Leading article, page 25

England match is a banker for touts

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE black market in tickets for England's opening World Cup game was flourishing yesterday with £13 tickets changing hands for £200. About 9,000 fans hold legitimate tickets for the game against Tunisia but double that number could flood into Marseille.

Shop owners and hotel workers were openly selling the tickets, which bear the names of French supporters. They have been allocated 60 per cent of World Cup seats. The deals threaten to undermine security at the 60,000-capacity Stade Velodrome.

Ian Davies, the British Consul-General in Marseille, said: "We are fully aware that there is a black market in tickets and the authorities are dealing with it. The consulate itself has been contacted by a number of people offering to sell tickets to England fans."

The French system of fast-track justice for the World Cup was put into action for the first time yesterday, when Christopher Kyles, 25, an oil rig worker from Aberdeen, was given a two-month suspended sentence for assaulting a policeman on the eve of the Scotland-Brazil match.

Opening game kicks off with a record

BY JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND'S game against Brazil was seen on television by more viewers at home than the opening game of any other World Cup. BBC officials said yesterday.

Provisional figures show that an average of 12 million watched the live broadcast of the game in the United Kingdom. The global audience was estimated at 1.5 billion, more than a quarter of the world's population. As Britons hurried home from work to watch the last 15 minutes, the audience in this country reached 14 million.

Jonathan Martin, the Controller of BBC Sport, said: "For a match that kicked-off late in the afternoon this is a sensational figure."

The previous highest figure for an opening match was in 1990 when 8.1 million watched Argentina and Cameroon slightly later in the afternoon. Wednesday's figures even exceeded the audience for the match between England and Scotland at the Euro 96 championship, when the game began at 3pm on a Saturday, and the audience was 11.7 million.

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Tate raids to put treasure...

THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 12 1998

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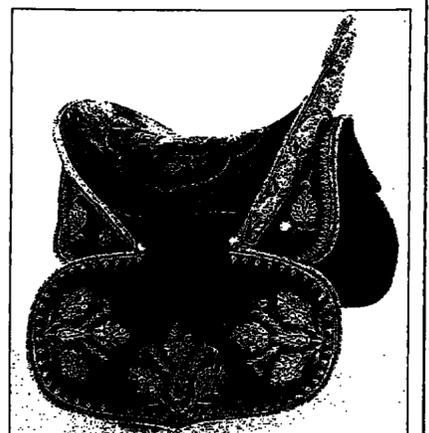
Yuri Fokine, the Russian Ambassador, gets to grips with a 17th-century axe



The bow case and quiver of Tsar Mikhail, and an English goblet of 1613-14



The "Jericho Cap" and a saddle from Turkey



Tsars' mighty arms go on show at Tower

By JOHN YOUNG

SOME of the greatest treasures of Imperial Russia go on display at the Tower of London tomorrow. Consisting mostly of arms and armour from 1600 to 1800, the exhibition marks the 300th anniversary of the visit of Peter the Great to the Royal Armouries at the Tower.

Perhaps the most striking of the 110 exhibits from the Kremlin Museum in Moscow is the "Jericho Cap", a ceremonial helmet made in 1628 for Tsar Mikhail, the founder of the Romanov dynasty. Inlaid with gold, it is decorated with 95 diamonds, 228 rubies and ten emeralds.

The collection contains some of the finest work of armouers, gunsmiths and jewellers in Western Europe,

including Britain, and in the Middle East, notably Persia and the Ottoman Empire.

The bowcase and quiver used by Mikhail and his son Aleksei, similarly embellished with gold and precious stones, were made in the Silver Office in Moscow under the supervision of several European masters, while the equally ornate saddle for Aleksei's horse came from Turkey, a present from two Greek merchants.

Many of the items on display — sabres, scabbards, helmets, flintlocks and pistols — were clearly designed for ceremonial rather than practical use. It is hard, for example, to imagine the huge decorated flintlock made for

Alexei being employed on the field of battle.

Being primarily a display of the armouers' art, the exhibition provides little evidence of whether Russian weaponry in the 17th and 18th centuries was a match for that of Western Europe. However, it appears that the decorative art imported from Islam was frequently supplemented by the latest military technology from Europe.

Chris Gravett, curator of arms and armour, said yesterday: "There is no doubt that Russian metalworking skills were as good as those to be found anywhere else."

The exhibition continues to September 13. Entrance is included in the admission price to the Tower.

Tate raids stately homes to put treasures on show

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Tate Gallery has gained special access to Britain's stately homes, securing loans of some of their most prized treasures.

Leonardo da Vinci's drawing, *Leda and the Swan*, from the Duke of Devonshire's collection at Chatsworth, and Stubbs's *Gimcrack on Newmarket Heath* are among important paintings, sculptures, manuscripts and objects that will feature in a major exhibition this autumn.

In *Celebration: The Art of the Country House* draws on 60 of the 500 stately homes open to the public. Reflecting five centuries of collecting, it ranges from the most promi-

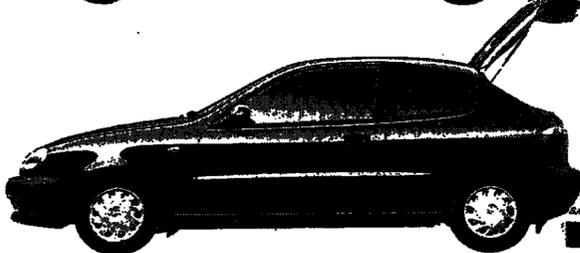
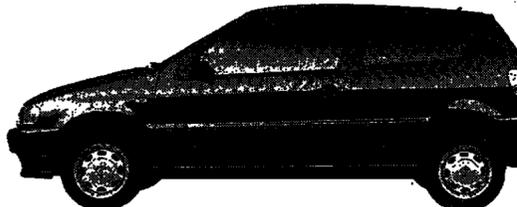
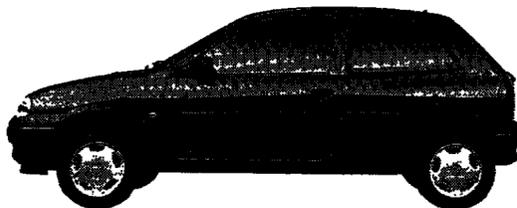
nent houses such as Blenheim Palace and Longleat, to lesser-known collections such as Bromholme Hall and Port Eliot. Other exhibits include a sculpture by Bernini, portrait miniatures by Nicholas Hilliard, the rosary beads of Mary Queen of Scots and a death mask of Napoleon.

The show, opening on November 10, marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Historic Houses Association (HHA), which represents some 1,500 privately-owned historic collections in Britain. It is curated by Giles Waterfield, former director of the Dulwich Picture Gallery, and the Tate's specialists,

Karen Hearn and Robert Upstone. Mr Upstone said: "We wanted to show the breadth of material. We tried to have some knockout, well-known things and some little-known things including watercolours and drawings."

Singling out the 18th-century Cottesbrooke Hall — near Althorp, the Spencer family's home — he said "it is not on everybody's lips... although a fantastic house with probably the finest collection of sporting art in the country in private hands". The Tate show, he added, would help to raise the profile of such collections, as well as celebrating the most famous ones.

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Brown stopped short of making £80m from Mint

GORDON BROWN yesterday decided to seek private investment to restore the flagging fortunes of the Royal Mint, but stopped short of an outright privatisation that could have raised up to £80 million.

The Chancellor will keep the Mint under state ownership. He said yesterday that a "new public-private partnership is the best way for the Royal Mint to take advantage of new commercial opportunities."

The changes could see the Mint moving away from its dependence on manufacturing hard cash and preparing for a new technical age in which coins and notes will be gradually replaced by electronically charged cards.

Profits at the Royal Mint have been under pressure ever since the Conservative Government pushed through measures that would allow other companies to produce coins and banknotes.

Observers suggest that the Mint badly needs the equipment to participate in the more profitable areas of security printing — and edge away from the fiercely competitive banknote area.

However, plans for the public-private partnership immediately attracted criticism. Barry Reamsbottom, general secretary of the Public and Commercial Services Union, said: "I am very disappointed

Fraser Nelson
says the
Chancellor
could have
cashed in on
state asset

with the decision to sell off the Royal Mint. It is particularly said that ministers are privatising the Queen's coinage when our desks are littered with National Audit Office reports slamming the waste of public money in the sell-off of Railtrack, the Stationery Office and the Atomic Energy Authority, and many other agencies."

The Mint has been producing coins for 1,000 years — making it one of the oldest manufacturing institutions in the country. It has already sold its historical home in Royal Mint Court, opposite the Tower of London, and now works from Llantrisant in South Wales, where it is still protected by Ministry of Defence police.

The original building was sold for £90 million five months ago and would have been worth more than the

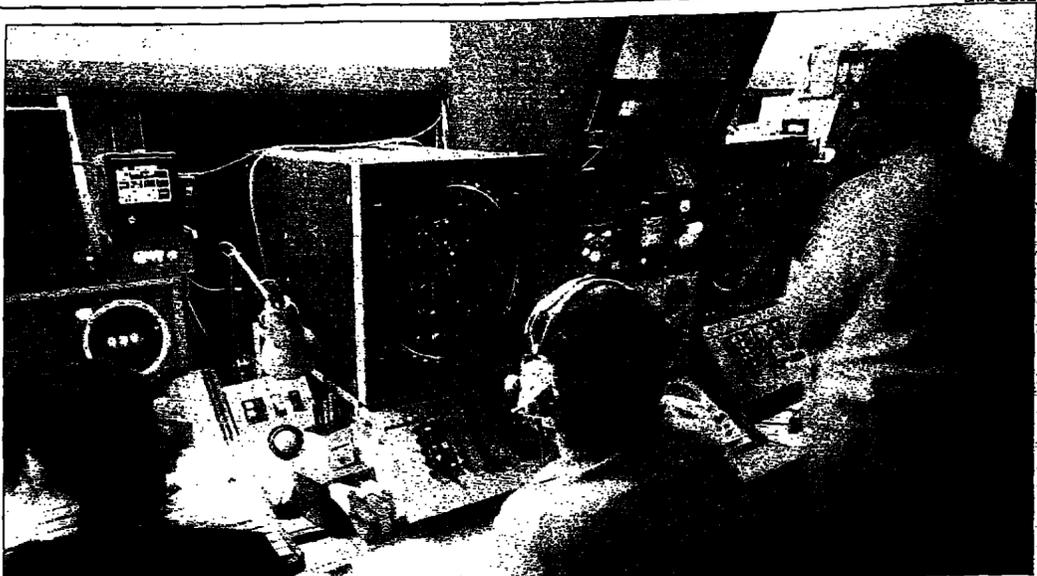
Mint itself. Its fame, and colonial links, has helped it to retain contracts to make coins for more than 100 countries from Algeria to Zimbabwe. It still generates most of its profits from overseas business.

Coins now circulating in Britain are understood to be worth about £2.3 billion. More than 450 million coins are lost every year, amounting to about £50 million of wealth. The Mint does not produce notes — that is the responsibility of the Bank of England.

The Mint has been managed as a separate business rather than a government department since 1975. In recent years it has been run by businessmen rather than civil servants. It was for many years seen as a sister company to the Stationery Office, which was privatised for £56 million three years ago and is now seeking a stock market flotation.

Plans to reform the ownership structure of the Mint have been afoot for the past 15 years. Gordon Brown, as Chancellor, is still the official Master of the Mint. Previous proposals have included changing it into a public limited company with the Government holding 100 per cent of the equity.

Leading article, page 25
Business news, page 29



The Government has agreed to sell 51 per cent of National Air Traffic Services, retaining 49 per cent and a "golden share" in the company.

Prescott deal led to air traffic sell-off

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of millions of pounds will be invested in the transport system after the partial privatisation of the air traffic control service. John Prescott, Secretary for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, won the Chancellor's assurance that any money raised from the public-private partnership would go to improvements, particularly to maintaining roads.

Gordon Brown's concession last week removed the final hurdle in dis-

cussions between the two over a sell-off instinctively opposed by Mr Prescott. The decision to press ahead with the partial sell-off stunned senior figures at National Air Traffic Services (NATS), who have long pressed for the commercial and managerial freedom that they believe private involvement would provide.

Ministers have agreed to sell off 51 per cent of the company, which has an annual turnover of some £500 million. Employees will take a share of the private shareholding. Ministers will also retain a "golden share" giving the Government the right to

block share sales that might threaten the public interest.

Joe Magee, of the Institute of Professionals, Managers and Specialists, said: "This has nothing to do with the long-term interests of air traffic control. It has been cooked up in a deal between ministers to find cash for road maintenance."

NATS, which is already a stand-alone company, controls Britain's busiest air space and handles ground control at larger airports. Smaller airports and less congested airspace are handled by private firms.

The British Air Line Pilots Association, said: "The last thing we need is the upheaval of privatisation. We can see no operational or safety advantage in privatisation and we are not convinced this is the best way forward."

The chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, Sir Malcolm Field, said: "Safety is paramount and will always be our overriding priority. It is vital we secure funding for air traffic control investment and we welcome the decision to achieve this through a partnership between the public and private sectors."

Is this an act of daring or sleight of hand?

GORDON BROWN is a master of the opaque — sounding both cautious and generous, a committed defender of fiscal prudence and a friend of improved public services. In a mere 14 months as Chancellor, he has been a prolific producer of stability plans and strategies, each involving a new set of targets and guidelines. To some Mr Brown was announcing continued tight limits on spending, while to others he was presaging big rises in spending. Jeers by Tory MPs about his announcement of the sale of public assets — dubbed partnerships, but never, of course, privatisations — reflected their deep ambiguity. Was he doing what no Tory Chancellor had ever dared to do, or was it all a clever sleight of hand?

Behind all the talk about new rules and a prudent regime, Mr Brown is planning a slight relaxation from the very tight controls of the past three years. Current spending is projected to rise by 2½ per cent in real terms on average over the next three years, but the Government is planning a big increase in investment from ¼ per cent of national income to 1½ per cent by 2001-02. Consequently, the new global total, now christened Total Managed Expenditure, will rise by 2½ per cent a year on average in real terms, "reflecting the need to catch up on past underinvestment".

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

This represents a clear acceleration from recent years but should be much less than the big jump in spending in the early 1990s.

The key is the economy. The Treasury is still expecting a marked slowdown in growth this year followed by a pick-up next year to about 2½ per cent annually thereafter. This implies a slight rise in spending's share of national income to above 40 per cent, mainly because of the sharp planned rise in investment, before stabilising thereafter. Nevertheless, public finances should remain healthy and the level of debt should continue to fall — as long there is not a recession. If we have a hard rather than a soft landing, then yesterday's figures will look a good deal less cautious.

Mr Brown stressed raising investment. This will be gradual, though the pressures on departments are being eased in two important ways. First, there will be flexibility in shifting investment between financial years, and second, departments will be allowed to count part of the current costs of the private finance initiative against their investment totals, blurring a little the much trumpeted distinction between current and capital budgets. Yesterday's announcement

is intended to set limits to the bargaining of the next three weeks over detailed departmental plans. Ministers have been reluctant to volunteer savings — and Mr Brown's statement contained a series of hints about new conditions and incentives. "There will be no place for new spending unless there is reform through clear targets, standards and rigour in the use of money." Spending allocations will be linked to new targets, while, for example, a new housing inspectorate is being set up, and any extra money for teachers is likely to be tied to improving performance.

Michael Heseltine's idea of City Challenge, whereby local authorities competed for money for capital projects, is being applied to Whitehall, with the Treasury allocating resources on merit and quality of departmental bids. Mr Brown did not, of course, mention the Heseltine precedent, and the Tories perhaps did not realise their influence. Overall, yesterday's statement succeeded in seizing the initiative for the Chancellor, over his Cabinet colleagues as well as the markets and Parliament. He may have found it hard to make savings, but he wants to ensure that he determines where any increases go — further reinforcing the Treasury as the powerhouse of this administration.

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Man jailed for beating wife with lover's shoe

Tim Jones on City broker who snapped after finding couple in his house

A CITY broker who beat his wife with her lover's shoe after he returned home unexpectedly and caught them together was yesterday jailed for seven years.

Julien Bloxham, 36, left his wife Wendy, 31, lying in a pool of blood with a fractured skull. Mrs Bloxham had to have two emergency operations to remove blood clots on her brain after the attack last November.

Chelmsford Crown Court was told that Mrs Bloxham had had sex with her lover, David Newman, a businessman, in the lounge of her home after being told that her husband planned to spend the night at his mother's house.

However, Bloxham — who earned £90,000 a year trading on the international futures market — returned home unexpectedly. The court heard that he flew into a rage after discovering his wife with Mr Newman, 33, who was forced to flee the house barefoot.

After the attack, the court

heard, Bloxham told a policeman who called at the home that he had had "a few drinks" before he caught his wife having sex with her lover. He said: "I gave her a good hiding. I hope she dies."

Bloxham, of Hockley, Essex, who was said to be devoted to his wife and two young daughters, told the court that he had drunk eight pints of beer and could remember little of what had

happened. "I was feeling very angry at the time. I felt a rage building up. The next thing I remember is that I saw my wife lying on the floor with blood around the head."

He added: "I love my wife dearly. We want to be reconciled and put this behind us."

Bloxham said that on the advice of his wife, he had visited a fortune teller who told him she was having an affair. "I came straight home

and asked my wife if this was true. My wife denied it and asked whether I was going to believe her or Mystic Meg?"

Shirley Brooker, Mrs Bloxham's mother, said that after the attack, Bloxham had called and said her daughter had fallen and hit her head.

"He told me he had crept around the back of the house and seen a man on the settee." She added that he had told her that he had given Mrs Bloxham £3,000 for cosmetic surgery on her breasts "only to be treated in that fashion".

Bloxham was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm with intent. The jury failed to reach a verdict on a charge of attempted murder. He had pleaded not guilty.

Judge Brian Watling said that Mrs Bloxham had forgiven her husband and wanted mercy for him. However, he said: "This is not a domestic dispute or a quarrel that went too far. On the evidence you subjected your wife to a savage and brutal beating."



David Newman, left, fled Julien Bloxham's house



Wendy Bloxham suffered a fractured skull

Charities admit shame at child migrant policy

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE children's charities responsible for sending up to 100,000 British children to the far-flung corners of the world yesterday spoke of their shame at their involvement in the "barbaric" practice of forced child migration.

Roger Singleton, chief executive of Barnardo's, said that the exercise, intended to repopulate parts of the New World, seemed unbelievable today. "It was barbaric. We look back on it in our organisation with shock and horror. The best we can do is look back at our records and try to understand the thinking behind it," he told the Commons Health Committee inquiry into child migrants.

Mr Singleton said that Barnardo's, which exported 33,000 children aged 4 to 17 between 1882 and 1965, now accepted that the policy was "rampantly racist". He said that documents from 1954 showed that 49 children had not been migrated because they were — in the language of the time — "half-caste". The

committee also took evidence yesterday from the Catholic Child Welfare Council, The Children's Society, Fairbridge and the Family Care Society, which were all involved in the scheme.

In previous sessions, MPs heard evidence from former child migrants, who said that they were frequently mistreated. Some were told that their families were dead, while their parents were told that they had been adopted by British families. Today many still did not have a birth certificate.

Contradicting evidence the committee has received from former child migrants, the charities denied that they had been part of a cover-up of the child migration policy. They added that the policy had been encouraged by the British and Australian Governments, which had provided them with financial incentives.

But the charities agreed that they needed to create a central database that former child migrants could use to help trace their natural families.

Auction recalls Hess interview

BY JOHN SHAW

HONOURS awarded to Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, the diplomat who interrogated Rudolph Hess in 1942, will be auctioned in London next month. The two met after Hess, Hitler's deputy, flew secretly to Scotland to plead for a negotiated peace.

Kirkpatrick was rung up by Sir Alexander Cadogan, Permanent Under Secretary at the Foreign Office, who asked "in the most casual manner" whether he could identify Hess. Kirkpatrick, who had been in Berlin before the war, flew up to Scotland.

Hess was under guard at Buchanan Castle. Kirkpatrick recalled that he found him "fast asleep on an iron

bedstead" in a servant's bedroom. "We woke the prisoner up and, after a moment of dazed uncertainty, he recognised me and gave me a warm welcome."

The German launched into a "tediously long oration" which had not reached its climax when Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, telephoned the castle. Kirkpatrick told him that he had identified Hess.

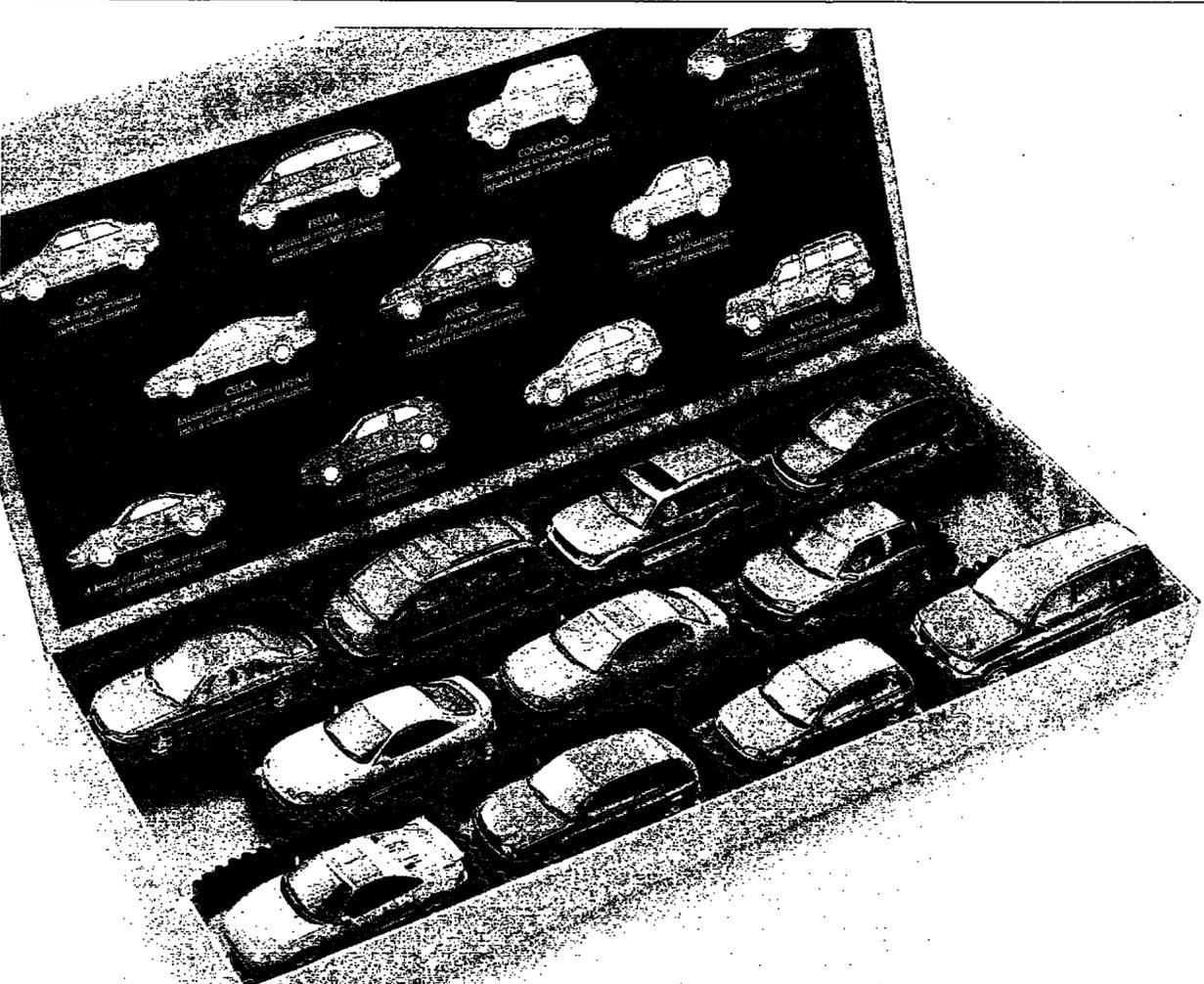
After several further visits, Kirkpatrick wondered whether Hess "was quite right in the head". The pair's final encounter took place at a house near Aldershot, Hampshire. Kirkpatrick had suggested to Churchill that the German, might reveal important intelligence, but the meeting was inconclusive. Hess was sentenced to life imprisonment at the Nuremberg Trials and died in 1987.

Kirkpatrick returned to Germany in 1945 and met all the surviving leaders of the Third Reich. He returned home for a distinguished career in the Foreign Office before retiring in 1957. He died in 1964.

The eight awards, which are being sold by his family at Sotheby's, London, on July 7, include the Order of the Bath and are expected to fetch £3,000.



Diplomat found Hess "not quite right in head"



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Lawrence's mother hits out at questioning by police

Inquiry chairman upholds objection by murdered teenager's mother, writes Lin Jenkins

AN ATTEMPT by police to question the parents of Stephen Lawrence about damning criticism of the investigation into their son's murder was halted yesterday by the chairman of the public inquiry into events surrounding the death.

Sir William Macpherson of Cluny called a halt to cross-examination after Stephen's mother Doreen asked, to applause from the public gallery, "am I on trial here?" The incident brought further embarrassment for the Metropolitan Police who have been said, during the 43 days of the inquiry, to have committed a catalogue of blunders. Jeremy Gompertz, QC, for the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, had been asking Mrs Lawrence about events in her statement which were at odds with the recollections of police officers.

The public gallery applauded the chairman's intervention, and again clapped when, after Mrs Lawrence's husband Neville completed his evidence, the chairman said he did not expect any cross-examination. None was forthcoming.

Mrs Lawrence, 45, had accused the police of racism, corruption and incompetence in their handling of her son's death at the hands of racist thugs as he waited for a bus in Eltham, southeast London in April 1993. She said that from the outset officers had treated her and her husband as "gullible simpletons" to be "patronised and fobbed off".

Mr Gompertz began by asking her about a woman who had come to her home claiming to have seen five youths washing off blood on the evening of the fatal stabbing and naming four of them, and how that information was

passed to police. He turned to the events of the night of the killing when the couple went looking for their son and maintained that they had not observed the high degree of police activity one would have expected. He asked: "Did you go to the Welcome Inn?" She replied: "Not in it, past it." Mr Gompertz then asked her to look at a map.

"Can I ask a question?" Mrs Lawrence said. "Am I on trial or something here? From the time of my son's murder I have been treated not as a victim. I can only tell, or put in my statement, what I know. For me to be

propose to pursue these matters." Sir William responded: "I am sure that is both wise and right." Mr Lawrence, 51, a painter and decorator, who like his wife, wore an orange ribbon in memory of his eldest son, sat with his hands clasped as his statement was read.

Afterwards he again criticised the police. "After 43 days I was expecting an apology by the Metropolitan Police for the way they behaved for five years. Instead, I saw a representative for the Metropolitan Police attack my wife as if she was on trial.

"I do not like being accused of

he had concluded that police "come in with the idea that the family of black victims are violent criminals who are not to be trusted". The inquiry was exposing what went wrong, and it had proved to be, he said, "much worse than we could have imagined".

He pleaded for the police to change its attitude. "When a policeman puts his uniform on he should forget all his prejudices."

"If he cannot do that then he should not be doing the job because that means that one part of the population is not protected from the likes of those who murdered Stephen."

Mrs Lawrence in her statement, which was read to the hearing, said that her 15-year-old son's death had not been properly investigated. She said what she had been told "led me to believe then, and now, that they were protecting the suspects".

She said she had heard rumours which led her to believe that the investigation "had all gone bad because there was some link between the police and the defendants".

She felt that the family's private prosecution initially brought against five suspects had failed because of the attitude of "who do you think you are - some black family telling them that their justice system stinks".

She was left with the belief that no black person could ever trust the police since racism appeared to be institutionalised: there was no other explanation for the attitude and behaviour of the police. "Through their negligence these people have been allowed to walk free and through the legal system three of the boys can never be brought to justice. I believe the police had a hand in the whole thing."

Am I on trial or something here? From the time of my son's murder I have been treated not as a victim. For me to be questioned in this way - I do not appreciate it

questioned in this way - I do not appreciate it."

To cries of "shame" from the public gallery, Mr Gompertz appealed to the chairman. Sir William told him: "You should use your discretion." Mr Gompertz replied: "I respect your judgment in these matters more than anyone else." Sir William told him: "I think your discretion should be exercised in favour of not asking further questions." Mr Gompertz replied: "I will, of course, accept your guidance."

Sonia Woodley, QC, for three superintendents involved in the case, said that there were a number of factual matters in dispute, but added: "I do not

anything. It has been five years and we have suffered all this trauma and disappointment - at the end we will not get anything from this - we will not get my son back." Mr Lawrence said that the mistakes "have cost us so much pain: these people could be behind bars doing time for this murder. I have heard one police officer say that if they had arrested them the following day they would have solved the case. It puts a knife in my stomach. Here we are five years later still talking about my son and nobody has paid for it."

After such a length of time and the repeated failure to secure convictions



Doreen and Neville Lawrence. They were applauded from the public gallery

Letter bombs sent in animal welfare protest

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

LETTER bombs have been sent by animal welfare extremists to an Oxford professor and the owner of a farm which breeds cats for experiments.

Professor Colin Blakemore and Chris Brown escaped injury when the devices failed to go off and Army bomb disposal experts were brought in to make them safe. They were sent only weeks after Mr Brown received a bomb threat from a group calling itself the Provisional Animal Liberation Front.

Two more devices were sent to two workers at Hillgrove Farm in Minster Lovell, Oxfordshire, which has been at the target of animal welfare protests for several years. They also failed to go off.

A spokesman for Thames Valley Police, which has launched a major investigation into the incidents on

Tuesday, said that the intended targets realised the packages were suspicious and called in the emergency services.

Robert Davies, the Assistant Chief Constable, yesterday warned the public to be vigilant about suspicious packages. "These letters had the potential to cause serious injury. They are a cowardly attack and an unacceptable form of protest," he said.

Campaigners have staged regular demonstrations outside Hillgrove Farm, many ending in violence. Twelve days ago, 39 people were arrested for public order offences, including a ten-year-old boy who was later cautioned.

Thames Valley Police have spent an estimated £400,000 controlling the protests over the past six months, making it their largest public order task.

Professor Blakemore, who was yesterday in America and unavailable for comment, became one of the country's main targets for extremists after he publicly defended his work involving kittens. He is head of physiology at Oxford University and is one of only 17,000 licensees in the lowest category for animal experiments.

Over the years, his Oxfordshire home has been turned into a fortress after repeated attacks. One of the most vicious occurred in January when a group terrorised his wife, Andrea, and a visiting professor from Canada by hurling bricks and bottles through windows and trying to smash down his front door with a block of stone.

A week earlier he had been injured in London when activists rushed the stage where he was giving a lecture.

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Relatives criticise E coli inquiry

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE inquiry into the world's worst E. coli O157 food-poisoning outbreak ended yesterday after seven weeks of evidence comprising 6,000 pages of court notes.

Relatives of the 21 victims in central Scotland who died in the 1996 epidemic, which affected more than 400 people, took the opportunity to criticise the legal system, which had denied legal aid to all but one family, leaving the majority unrepresented because they could not afford to pay the £30,000 costs.

A statement by Jean and John Smith, of Motherwell, who lost their relative Mary Smith, 90, to the bug and who attended every day of the Motherwell inquiry, said the odds had been stacked against the relatives from the start.

They claimed that the truth had been stifled by the constant objections to lines of questioning from the families' side. "It was apparent that instead of one common goal, there were in fact several agendas being followed."

The statement went on to remark on the apparent lack of remorse shown by doctors, environmental health and public health officials. "We had to sit in silence while they patted each other on the back for their handling of the outbreak. We are disgusted by insinuations that our relatives were old, frail or senile and would have died anyway."

Graham Cox, QC, Sheriff Principal of South Strathclyde, is expected to deliver his findings at the end of July.

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Transport chiefs get pay bonus but miss the bus

SENIOR executives of London Transport were given a 13 per cent increase in performance-related bonuses last year, despite consistently failing to hit government quality targets.

Figures disclosed yesterday also showed that the standard of service also fell in almost two thirds of the categories in which the company is measured by the Government. Most of the 21 categories of performance and customer satisfaction targets also showed a fall on the previous year. Twelve target areas showed a fall, six improved, and three were unchanged.

However, the four executive directors, including the former chairman who was forced by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, to resign this year, shared an increase in performance-related pay of £11,122, amounting to a combined bonus of £95,720.

London Transport said that the levels of bonus, agreed with the Government each year, were based not only on quality of service, but on other standards, such as increasing revenue and improving safety.

Standards of service fell on Tube and buses in almost two thirds of targets, writes Arthur Leathley

The company pointed out that it made a record operating profit of £237 million last year.

Peter Ford, the former chairman, who earned £210,000 basic pay, saw his bonus rise to £32,686 from £30,000; Denis Tunnicliffe, chief executive, increased his bonus from £17,931 to £20,180 as managing director of London Underground, where his basic pay was £163,000. Tony Sheppeck, LT finance director, whose basic pay was £182,000, increased his bonus from £21,000 to £22,214; Clive Hodson, director of LT buses, saw a rise from £15,667 to £20,640, on a basic salary of £168,000.

London Transport's directors conceded that they had consistently failed to meet targets. The figures coincided with a set of statistics reflecting a downward trend, on the

previous year, in customer satisfaction and in standards of service at Underground ticket desks, punctuality on low-frequency bus routes, and the number of miles operated by buses.

In 1997-98, London Underground should have ensured that 98 per cent of passengers did not have to queue for more than three minutes for tickets. The actual figure was 94.8 per cent.

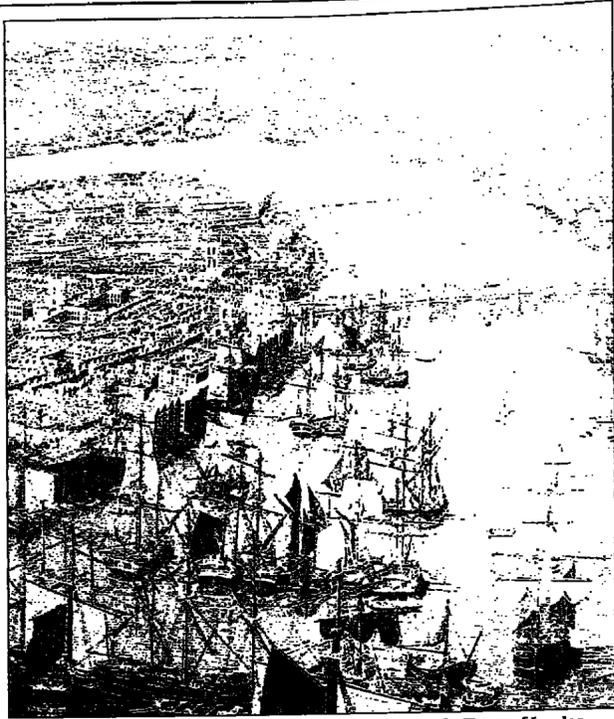
Tube-train service regularity should have been 95.9 per cent, but was 95.4 per cent. Moreover, 96.9 per cent of trains should have run, but only 95.5 per cent did.

On customer satisfaction, LU failed to meet its targets in all five areas — train service, station and train information, passenger safety and security, station staff helpfulness and availability, and train and

station cleanliness. The disclosures came as London Underground announced a £1 billion investment programme over the next two years, in preparation for the Government's planned public-private partnership, which is intended to add an additional £7 billion of investment over 15 years.

As the bonus increases were disclosed, the directors voiced their disappointment at the failure to hit targets. "We did have some setbacks on the Underground last year — partly financial and partly due to a delay in bringing in improvements," Mr Tunnicliffe said yesterday. Mr Hodson said that bus services were suffering from the lack of a crackdown on vehicles parking illegally in bus lanes.

The £1 billion cash boost for the Underground over the next two years is the result of the £365 million extra investment promised by Mr Prescott, and partly the result of the company's operating profit. The improvements will, according to LT, lead to brighter stations, new escalators, tracks and trains.



The panorama's second panel, looking upriver from near the Tower of London

Napoleonic panorama of London comes home

THE Rhinebeck Panorama, a bird's-eye view of London at the start of the Napoleonic Wars, has been bought for the Museum of London for £199,500. The 9ft-wide view consists of four water-colour panels.

The historic work by an unknown artist was discovered 40 years ago in a barrel of pistols in the attic of a house in Rhinebeck, New York State. It is thought to date from 1806 to 1810.

David Barrie, director of the National Art Collections Fund, which was among funding bodies contributing to the purchase, said that it "gives an extraordinarily detailed view of London in the early 19th century". The Pagoda in Kew Gardens and a building on fire in Bermondsey can be identified.

The work was bought at Sotheby's with help from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Switched-on town shows way ahead for electric cars

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S first public charging point for electric cars will be unveiled today to Glenda Jackson, Minister for Transport in London, raising hopes that the day of efficient electric-powered vehicles is almost here.

The charging point, in Sutton, South London, could be the first of a network of public charging stations across the capital. The scheme will include the use of five Peugeot 106 cars for Meals on Wheels services and other council business.

A spokesman for Sutton Borough Council, which is part of a Europe-wide programme called ZEUS which promotes zero-emission vehicles, said that the electricity was being supplied free and anyone with an electric vehicle could apply for a key.

"We do not know how many electric cars will use the spaces. It is a chicken and egg situation," he said. You will never get electric cars unless there is an infrastructure and you won't get an infrastructure without electric cars. We are trying to change this.

Transport experts claim that growing pressure to cut air pollution in cities, allied to major advances in battery and charging technology, are transforming the economics and practicalities of electric buses, vans and cars. The setting up of public charging points is the next step.

Car manufacturers including Peugeot and Citroën are spending increasing amounts of money improving electric cars. Yesterday it emerged that the van maker LDV has been collaborating with Wavedriver, a subsidiary of PowerGen, on a revolutionary electric van. Recharging of its flat batteries takes one hour rather than the normal eight, making it practical for city use by mail companies or delivery firms. It uses a computer software-controlled system that can modulate the mains current for rapid recharging.

A spokesman for Wavedriver said that the system could top up a partially discharged battery in tens of

minutes making it possible to extend the van's range when the driver stops for a brief rest.

Meanwhile, a consortium of mainly American-owned battery and power companies has developed another super-fast charging system which, it claims, cuts refuelling times to a few minutes.

Jonathan Murray, of the Government's Energy Saving Trust, said yesterday: "The problem with electric vehicles has always been range. It has needed developments in charging and batteries. We are now getting significant movement on both."

UNEASY RIDERS

An increase in motorcycle deaths, caused partly by a surge in the number of older "born-again" bikers, has forced ministers to re-think plans to encourage motorcycling (Arthur Leathley writes). Registrations in 1997 rose by 36 per cent on the total for 1996. Ministers had promoted motorcycling as a way of solving pollution and congestion problems but a 16 per cent rise in deaths last year means there will be little reference made to motorcycling when a White Paper on alternatives to the car is unveiled next month.

runs a government-backed programme called Powershift to promote alternatively-fuelled vehicles, is working with car and truck makers to reduce the costs of buying an electric vehicle. The trust has recently helped to mastermind the £20 million purchase of 323 gas and electric-powered cars, vans and refuse trucks for companies and public organisations, including Safeway and the police in the Midlands.

Powershift is now offering grants of around 50 per cent towards the purchase of electric vehicles to increase their market penetration and further drive down costs.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 12 1998

Scientists go to work on creating 'super-egg'

SCIENTISTS have developed an egg with healthy compounds designed to protect against heart disease and cancer. By altering the genetic code of chickens, the levels of vitamins, carotenoids, and omega-3 fatty acids in their eggs are increased. The key to the process is in the DNA of the egg cells. The researchers, from the University of California, San Diego, say that the new eggs could be used to produce healthier food. The key to the process is in the DNA of the egg cells. The researchers, from the University of California, San Diego, say that the new eggs could be used to produce healthier food.

Africa's drive to get solar-powered

THE price of solar panels has fallen so much that it is now possible to power a small house with solar energy. The price of solar panels has fallen so much that it is now possible to power a small house with solar energy.

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Scientists go to work on creating 'super-egg'

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS have developed an egg rich in healthy compounds, designed to protect against heart disease and cancer. By altering the diet of hens with natural feed ingredients they have raised the levels of vitamin E, carotenoids, and docosahexanoic acid (DHA) — three essential nutrients present in eggs. The result, says Ray Noble, of the Scottish Agricultural College in Ayr, is an egg that provides the same value as food supplements bought in a health food store, but at considerably lower cost.

The key improvement is increasing the amounts of DHA, he told *Poultry World*. This is an essential fatty acid found in fish oil, which has been shown to reduce the risk of heart disease. Each egg contains half the recommended daily allowance of DHA, plus vitamin E and carotenoids, anti-oxidant chemicals found in green vegetables. These are thought to offer protection against cancer.

MPs back move to let chemists sell morning-after pill

By Alexandra Frean, Social Affairs Correspondent

A CAMPAIGN to make the emergency contraceptive pill available to women without them having to visit a doctor won the backing of dozens of MPs yesterday.

Schering Health Care, the pill's manufacturer, has changed its mind on making the product available without prescription, and is negotiating with the Department of Health to allow women to buy the pill from chemists.

The company's U-turn follows proposals by a government-sponsored committee to allow nurses and pharmacists to prescribe certain drugs under guidelines drawn up by doctors.

Yesterday Jenny Tonge, the Liberal Democrat MP for Richmond Park, who used to practise as a doctor, tabled an early day motion calling for emergency contraception to be available from pharmacists without a prescription. Her motion has been signed by 54 cross-party MPs.

Schering's emergency contraception consists of a course of tablets similar to the normal contraceptive pill, which must

be started within 72 hours of unprotected sex. Young women in particular often found that they could not get a prescription in time, either because their GP discouraged them or because no appointments were available. Dr Tonge said her proposal could prevent up to 70 per cent of abortions and significantly reduce the number of unwanted teenage pregnancies. "We have the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Europe and we need to do something about it. Increasing access to emergency contraception could make a real difference," she said.

Dr Tonge said that 30 years as a family planning doctor had taught her the importance of making emergency contraception more widely available. At present it is available only on prescription from GPs, family planning clinics and some hospital accident and emergency departments.

Dr Tonge dismissed claims that the drug could be harmful to women. "What we are talking about is a drug that is less dangerous than aspirin and paracetamol, which are

available from petrol stations," she said.

David Palntin, chairman of the Birth Control Trust, said that the great advantage of emergency contraception was that it could be used after intercourse in the "cold light of the next day". "Anyone can have a contraceptive accident... providing emergency contraception in pharmacies would be a sensible and effective means of reducing the upset caused by unplanned pregnancies," he said.

Roger Odd of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society said surveys had shown that about 70 per cent of pharmacists would be happy to dispense emergency contraception, providing there were strict guidelines.

Ruth Real, secretary of the Association of Catholic Women, criticised the campaign, saying that emergency contraception was a form of early abortion. "I would think it would encourage exactly the sort of irresponsibility that ministers themselves have criticised," she said.



A BOWL of broccoli being prepared for the dinner table may be anathema to President Bush and generations of children, but researchers have discovered that the chemical which gives the vegetable a bitter taste helps to prevent cancer (Ian Murray writes). Two or three portions a week of broccoli, or of its close relations cabbage and sprouts, can halve the risk of the disease developing in the bowel. The

Sweet side of bitter broccoli

chemical triggers a process that causes precancerous cells to destroy themselves. A three-year research programme funded by the European Union into the brassica family, which alone contains the

chemical is trying to find out how it works. A regular diet of greens is especially useful in preventing cancer of the bowel because the disease has a long development process there. Ian Johnson, head of the project at the Institute of Food Research, said: "Epidemiological research shows that the 20 per cent of the population who eat most of these vegetables have half the risk of developing cancer of the bottom 20 per cent."

Africa's deaf children get solar-powered aid

THE makers of a solar-powered hearing aid, designed for children in developing countries who are too poor to buy batteries, have been awarded a lottery grant of nearly £40,000.

The device has been developed for the British-based charity Campmill. Village Trust by health workers in Botswana. They were concerned that every year millions of African children develop ear infections leading to partial deafness, but have no access to hearing aids.

Tom Blake, of the Trust, said yesterday that like all good inventions the new hearing aid was extremely simple and effective. It could also be produced at roughly half the cost of conventional aids, he said. "Partial hearing loss is a huge problem in Africa. But when people are issued with a hearing aid, the batteries are too expensive or they are too difficult to obtain for people in remote areas. This invention solves that problem."

The hearing aid, made from moulded grey plastic, is roughly half the size of a cigarette packet and is mounted with a silicone solar panel.

British trust wins lottery grant to boost production.

Alexandra Frean reports

It is worn clipped to a belt or a pocket like a pager and has a simple plug-in ear piece, moulded to fit individual wearers' ears. It can be recharged once a week by being left in the sun for four hours.

Although only 600 of the aids have been produced, Campmill has also been contacted by health workers from India, Pakistan, the Middle East and Russia.

Last month the aid won a prestigious Design for Development Award from the South African Bureau of Standards. Last year the award went to the clockwork radio, designed by the British inventor Trevor Bayliss for countries where electricity is in short supply.

The Commonwealth Society

for the Deaf found that half of 250 children studied in East Africa had hearing difficulties, 57 per cent of which were caused by middle ear infections.

At present the hearing aids are being produced at the rate of 500 a year by one worker at a community of disabled people at Otse near Gaborone, the Botswanan capital.

The charity hopes to use the lottery money to increase production and employ two more production workers as well as a technician who will mould the earpiece to suit wearers.

The lottery grant was part of the second round of grants to charities working overseas made by the National Lottery Charities Board. Some £25 million was given to 134 projects. Other recipients include £433,009 to Medical Emergency Relief International to provide training for humanitarian aid field workers; and £84,331 to Send a Cow, which supplies livestock to farmers and teaches animal husbandry.

The biggest grant of £1 million went to Save the Children for a project to help Palestinian children.

Golf death gives clue to lightning mystery

By Ian Murray
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE death of a golfer has provided a clue to the mystery of how a lightning strike can kill without leaving a mark on the victim's body.

Four golfers had taken shelter from a violent storm when a bolt hit the tree under which they were standing. Three of them fell unconscious to the ground; the fourth suffered burns from metal items he was wearing.

The story is told in *The Lancet* today. Two of the three who fell unconscious came round after a short time, but the other did not.

A doctor who was on the golf course realised that the man had suffered a heart attack and tried in vain to resuscitate him while an ambulance was called. The man died 18 days later, aged 32. There were no marks to show the lightning strike.

Michael Cherington, from the Lightning Data Centre at Denver, Colorado, writes that a bolt has a very high peak current of at least 100,000 amps which can produce intense nearby magnetic fields and induce large but short-lived currents in the human body. The lightning may therefore induce a loop current in the torso even though there is no evidence that the bolt ever entered the body. If this happens when the heart is under stress, perhaps because of stress or physical exertion, it could stop beating. The theory might explain unwitnessed heart attacks among hikers found dead in the mountains.

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Pretoria faces gloomy moment of truth as growth and the rand falter

COMMENTARY
R.W. Johnson

AFTER several years of steady progress in curbing inflation and cutting its budget deficit, South Africa is facing an agonising moment of truth as the turbulence in world markets has sent the rand plunging despite record interest rates. Interest rates have, moreover, become a political hot potato as, with the next elections only a year away, growth predictions have repeatedly had to be revised downwards because the long-expected fall in rates has failed to materialise.

In the eyes of the Communist Party, the trade unions and many others within the ANC, this mere

ly proves that the independent Reserve Bank should be brought firmly under political control — though in fact any report that the Bank's staunchly austere Governor, Chris Stals, might go merely redoubles pressure on the rand.

Since the ANC came to power in 1994, the rand has fallen by more than 60 per cent against sterling and the dollar, and after a particularly sharp fall in 1996 the Government set about reassuring

investors by tough fiscal discipline and budget cuts while Mr Stals rammed up interest rates. The results have been dramatic — an inflation rate less than 5 per cent for the first time in a quarter of a century, real interest rates of 13 per cent to 16 per cent and a growth slowdown which has seen the mountainous unemployment figures grow worse.

Under rising business as well as political pressure, Mr Stals had

begun to cut rates when the Asian and Russian crises sent a wave of panic through all emerging markets. Two weeks ago Mr Stals, citing conditions of "extraordinary danger" in the market, pushed the central bank's discount rate back up by 2 per cent to 18 per cent, cutting it to 17.5 per cent last week, while the Government learnt heavily on commercial banks not to pass on the rate increase to borrowers in general.

Inevitably, the markets have tested how tough the Government is really willing to be. On Wednesday, everything snapped. On the one hand, the biggest banking

group increased its prime rate to 20.25 per cent, despite the Government's furious disapproval; on the other hand the rand, having only recently gone through the crucial 5 rands to the dollar barrier, fell sharply to 5.22 rands, suggesting that yet higher rates will be required if the currency is to be shored up.

This seems out of the question. The Finance Minister's budget was predicated on a 3 per cent growth rate, a figure which many economists have scaled back to 1.5 per cent in the face of continuing high interest rates and the low gold price. Now many feel the

growth could be zero. Yesterday the rand hit a new low of 5.2560 against the US dollar.

Last time that rates rose, ANC backbenchers furiously attacked the banks for their "collusion" — which is perhaps why they have not all acted together this time. Nonetheless, there will be no way they can escape the ANC's fury if the other banks follow — as they must inevitably do, unless Mr Stals cuts rates and signals to the market that the rand is undefended. Mr Stals, in turn, no doubt feels that the Government's deferral of its promised privatisations and its new affirmative action

label laws, have hardly helped, for both policies have inhibited the foreign investment which would have strengthened the rand. As it is, and despite Mr Stals's policy of sucking in hot money with high interest rates, South Africa has only \$4.5 billion in foreign reserves — just 5 per cent of what, say, Taiwan has. So interest rates are Mr Stals's only weapon.

Politically, the Government faces a no-win situation, whatever happens. To go into the election as the party of no growth, or as the party which cut the rand's value by three quarters, is not much of a choice.

Brussels resists Britain on EU zoo clampdown

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN is confident of strong backing from European Union states next week for the first Europe-wide law on minimum conditions for zoo animals, but resistance from the Brussels Commission could force the whole measure to be scrapped.

After months of lobbying by Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, and British officials, at least 13 — and possibly all 15 — EU governments are expected to back a draft directive setting a framework for certifying and licensing the EU's 1,000 zoos, animal parks and menageries.

Reports from organisations including the RSPCA have painted a picture of lamentable conditions in many zoos. The Government regards the zoo law as an important goal of its EU presidency.

Germany and The Netherlands, the most resistant nations, have signalled readiness to fall in with the other 13 behind the "slimline" directive, which leaves detailed rule-making up to national governments, officials say.

The law is also backed by leaders of the European Parliament, which voted overwhelmingly this year for binding measures to ensure the well-being of captive wild animals. Parliamentary ap-

proval is required for the law to be passed.

However, in an example of the pitfalls for member states trying to push through favourite projects during presidential terms, the Commission has dug in its heels. It says zoo conditions are not a matter for centralised EU regulation, and wants the Council of Ministers to stick to its own proposal for a list of voluntary "recommendations".

The spokesman for Ritt Bjerregaard, the Environment Commissioner, said: "The Commission has the right of initiative and is not happy about being imposed upon. The British are trying to put forward [what] looks like a directive in disguise."

Britain, of all countries, should accept the limits of Brussels law-making, said one EU official, recalling that a first attempt at a zoo directive in 1991 was abandoned two years later on the ground of subsidiarity — the doctrine, now backed by all large EU states, that calls for laws to be made at national or regional level as far as possible.

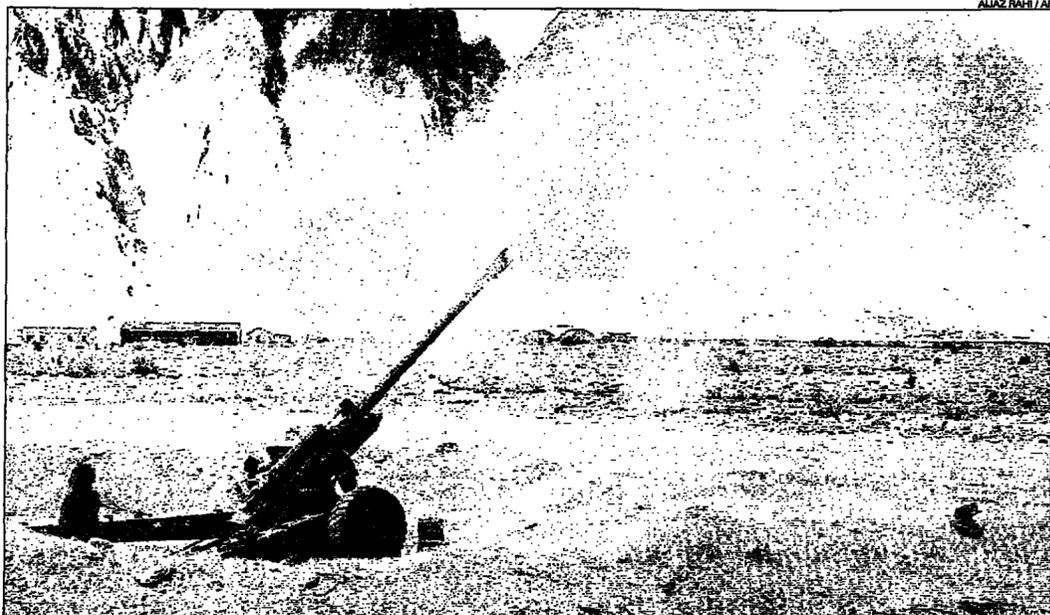
The Commission's stance is angering the European Parliament and animal welfare organisations. Ian White, the British MEP who drafted the parliamentary zoo report, said the Commission's attitude

seemed to spring from bloody-mindedness. "This is the very institution that ought to be answerable to the democratic institutions — the Parliament and the Council of Ministers."

The international animal trade and cross-border movement of zoo animals made it legitimate for Brussels to legislate.

Richard Burge, Director-General of the London Zoological Society, was incensed by the Commission's apparent willingness to obstruct a binding directive. "President Senter is standing in the way with a whole host of bureaucratic games," he said. Mr Burge acknowledged that animal welfare organisations might fault the British-negotiated text as too weak, but called it a "huge step in the right direction... if this doesn't go through, we will never get a decent regulation."

British officials called the draft directive "the best available", given the reluctance of many states to extend Brussels' powers into their territory. Under EU rules, the Commission may reject a proposal amended by the Council of Ministers if it has not won unanimous support — explaining Britain's desire to win backing from all 14 other states.



Indian troops fire artillery shells on Pakistani posts in the Siachen sector of Kashmir yesterday. Exchanges have intensified since last month

Pakistan halts its tests on eve of nuclear summit

BY MICHAEL BINYON AND ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

ON THE eve of a summit in London over the Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests, Pakistan yesterday declared a moratorium on further tests and called on India to do the same.

"The Government of Pakistan has repeatedly stated that it does not wish to enter into an arms race with India," a Foreign Ministry statement said. It said Islamabad was ready to engage constructively with Delhi and other

countries to formalise a ban on further nuclear tests. India shrugged off the offer, saying that Delhi was already observing a moratorium.

Pakistan's declaration came as countries that have renounced nuclear weapons are preparing to join the world's leading nuclear and industrial powers in London today in urging India and Pakistan to step back from the nuclear brink.

At a special Group of Eight summit, foreign ministers of Brazil, Argentina, South Africa and Ukraine will add

their weight to calls for a permanent freeze on development of nuclear arms by India and Pakistan and talks between the two to discuss differences, including Kashmir.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has invited the countries that have either scrapped their weapons or decided to halt their development to join Russia, China, the United States, France and Britain in urging the two to sign the treaties banning testing and proliferation of weapons. "The aim is to widen the coalition of

countries to persuade India and Pakistan to settle their differences," Mr Cook's spokesman said.

Germany, Italy and Japan, the non-nuclear members of G8, will be included at today's summit, together with the Philippines, the current chairman of the regional forum of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean). Britain hopes that the meeting will persuade the subcontinent that the nuclear race has caused alarm not just in the West but throughout the world.

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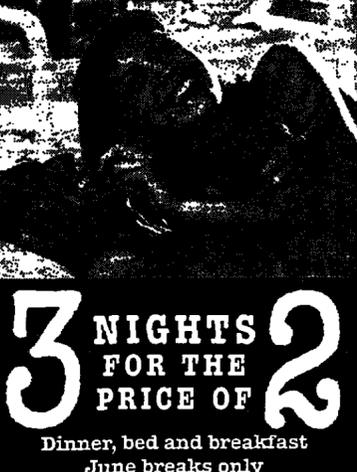
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Schroder tables jobs master plan to woo unions

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, and Gerhard Schröder, his Social Democratic challenger, yesterday began a fight for the hearts of the trade union movement, knowing that the vote of organised labour could tip the scales of the general election in September.

The Chancellor was more confident than for months, partly because unemployment dropped to 4.2 million last month. He nonetheless struck an unpopular note when, in his speech to the trades union congress, he accused unions of siding with the Social Democrats as if they had won the election. "I would be more careful if I were you!" boomed Herr Kohl, in a speech that was punctuated by catcalls and loud whistling.

Herr Schröder — playing to some degree a home match since the union movement leans to the left — promised to introduce quickly a round table of employers, unions and the Government to tackle unemployment. Dieter Schulte, the trade union federation chairman, warned the Social Democrats that speed was essential: "Such a round-table alliance has to happen quickly after the election because the unemployed cannot and will not wait."

Herr Kohl has told his party managers that unemployment — which has been touching

Kohl's strategy for massaging the pre-poll unemployment figures has been exposed, Roger Boyes writes

GERMAN ELECTIONS



postwar record highs for much of this and last year — must be brought down below four million before the elections. That, a more general economic recovery, growing public confidence, some international successes, careful use of the media and a few World Cup wins amount to Herr Kohl's formula for re-election.

He needs to catch up at least seven percentage points in the opinion polls before September. But the means he is using to push down the unemployment figure are regarded with suspicion by economists. Last

year — in the rush to meet Maastricht public spending targets — job creation schemes were cut back. This year labour exchanges have been given £1.8 billion more.

"The unemployed are in effect being purchased out of the statistics," said the Berlin paper, *Tagesspiegel*. Job creation measures are being introduced again in eastern Germany and companies encouraged to set up entirely new apprenticeship programmes. Nearly £100 million has been set aside for nationalised concerns to hire new workers; the money has to be spent by September.

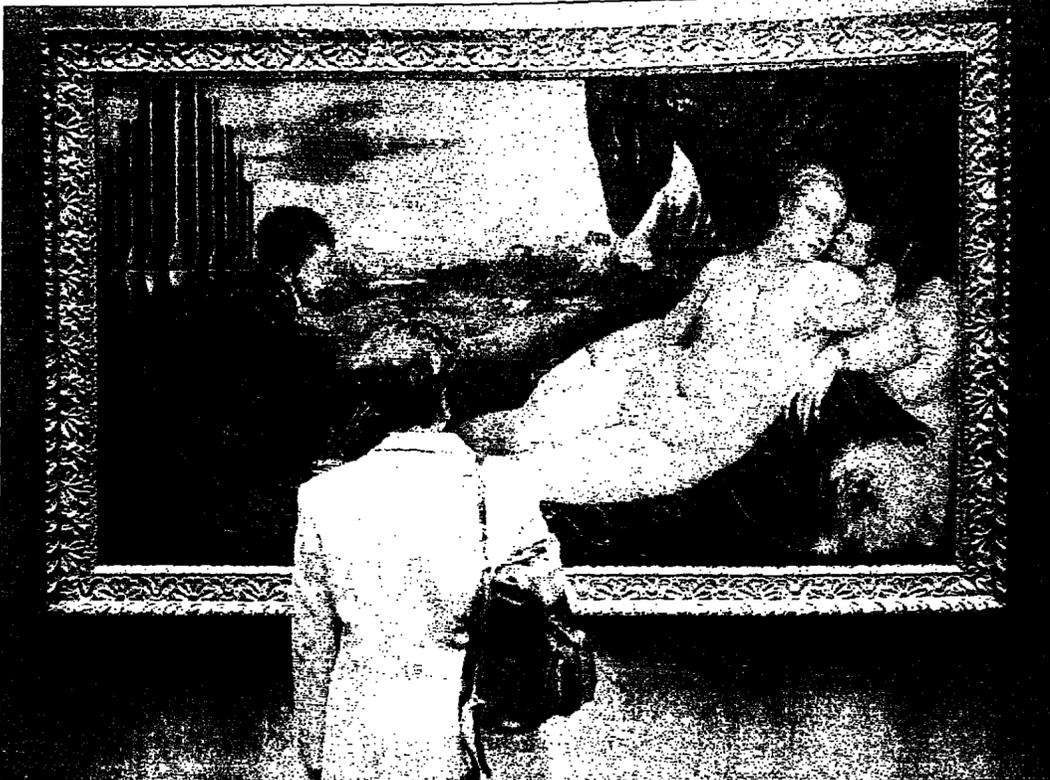
A Hamburg businessman has been mailing thousands of politicians and managers sympathetic to Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats urging them to hire more people on short-term contracts to help August's unemployment figures. German Railways has been busy hiring the long-term unemployed on short-term contracts to act as nightwatchmen or cleaners. Despite the politically motivated hiring, the rail company is committed to cutting 55,000 jobs by 2002.

Herr Schröder seems to favour the Dutch model of job creation, reducing social costs and making it easier for employers to hire and expand. His round table will probably include banks because he favours schemes that give the unemployed access to capital to set up small businesses.

The union movement is pinning its hopes on Oskar Lafontaine, the more traditionally left-wing Social Democratic Party chairman. Herr Lafontaine and Herr Schröder agree on the broad priorities for reducing unemployment but disagree on much of the detail. Should the Social Democrats come to power in September, this will be a source of tension.



Gerhard Schröder explains his employment proposal to trade union delegates in Düsseldorf yesterday



A visitor looks at the Titian masterpiece *Venus with Organ Player* at the new Berlin Painting Gallery which reunites a celebrated collection of art broken up by communism. The museum, for European paintings from the 13th to the 18th centuries, opens on Sunday. "With

Art treasures reunited in Berlin

the reopening, the Berlin museum will once again reach world recognition," Jan Kelch, its director, said. The gallery in Potsdamer Platz re-establishes the collection which was

housed from 1830 until the Second World War in the Altes Museum. Its masterpieces include works by Dürer, Rembrandt, Frans Hals, Botticelli and Gainsborough. During the

war the Nazis stored the paintings in salt mines and air-raid shelters, where most of them survived undamaged. After the war the paintings were kept divided, like Germany, either in the Bode Museum in East Berlin or the Dahlem Museum in the west. (AP)

Catalogue of railway sabotage revealed

By Roger Boyes

SABOTEURS have carried out 40 attacks on German railway lines this year and almost derailed a high-speed train. An Interior Ministry report on the sabotage, leaked yesterday by the mass circulation *Bild* newspaper, will deeply unsettle German passengers, already unnerved by last week's express crash, the country's worst rail disaster.

The nervousness about train travel is shared by the drivers. Late on Wednesday, a driver halted his high-speed train (ICE) — near Celle on the same stretch as last week's catastrophe — after hearing

rattling noises. Passengers were transferred to a slower train. The ICE was checked and given the all-clear yesterday, but no explanation was found.

Sabotage has never been conclusively ruled out by the investigators of the Eschede crash, in which 100 are known to have died, despite the assumption that a defective wheel was to blame. Now the Interior Ministry has compiled an alarming record of rail sabotage.

Some of the incidents can be ascribed to anti-nuclear protesters who have been trying to hold up rail transport of atomic waste. Their technique,

however, is to use grappling irons to tug down overhead cables. Most of the incidents recorded this year involved blocking or loosening rails, or even planting explosives.

An ICE disaster was narrowly averted on March 14. Concrete blocks were placed on the Hildesheim-Brunswick line, a set of points was jammed and earthing cables were loosened.

The report says: "An ICE drove into the obstacles, started to shake, but managed to stay on the rails. The damaged engine was able to continue until the next railway station." Earlier, on February 21, an ICE hit a tree trunk

placed across the rail. That too was on the Hildesheim stretch in northwestern Germany. In January in North Rhine-Westphalia, explosives were found strapped to the rails. In March a passenger found a live grenade strapped to a timer in the lavatory of an express.

There are similar stories from throughout northwestern Germany: piles of sand and stones laid in the path of trains, the ransacking of signal boxes, the loosening of screws on different kinds of train.

One incident, too late to be included in the report, occurred last Friday, two days after the train catastrophe.

Chunks of concrete were placed on the inter-city line between Dortmund and Cologne. The driver could not stop in time, but the train merely crushed the concrete.

There is no evidence that the attacks are concerted or politically motivated. If they were, some kind of note or declaration would have been sent by now from saboteurs to the German rail authorities.

But random vandalism does not seem a completely convincing explanation. Detectives from all the affected areas are investigating the incidents, and attempts are being made to exchange information.

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Pizza boss held over murders

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

POLICE have arrested a French restaurateur suspected of murdering a British woman and her French husband in 1996 and dumping their bodies in a canal in eastern France.

Some sources say Charles Cretello, 46, has confessed to killing Angela Hay, from Portsmouth, and her French husband, Alain. Their bodies were found in the boot of their purple Mercedes 300 at the bottom of a canal near the village of Niffer, in Alsace, on May 18, 1996. Mrs Hay's black poodle, Princess, had also been shot and thrown into the car.

Mr Cretello, owner of a pizzeria in nearby St Louis and an associate of the couple, is expected to be placed under investigation on suspicion of murder in Mulhouse.

Mr and Mrs Hay, who operated a luxury car dealership, withdrew £70,000 from their bank account just before they went missing. Their bodies were discovered six weeks later. Mrs Hay was identified by her wedding ring, and Mr Hay by his glass eye.

Mr Cretello, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 1980 for another killing, was extensively interviewed by police when the bodies were first discovered.

He claimed then to have been the last person to see the couple alive after they ate a meal together on April 2, 1996.

"They seemed calm and there was nothing unusual in their behaviour," Mr Cretello told reporters at the time. "They had a rendezvous on the



Alain Hay and his British wife Angela. Their bodies were found in the boot of their submerged Mercedes six weeks after they vanished

Swiss side and were coming back to see me."

Mr Cretello has since confessed to the murders, according to French police sources. His son, Christophe, 27, has also been implicated in the killings and is expected to be placed under investigation tomorrow by the Mulhouse inquiry magistrate.

Mr Hay, a gun collector and

supporter of the extreme Right, is believed to have had contacts with the French criminal underworld. He was Mrs Hay's second husband. She had divorced her previous spouse, a member of the French riot police.

Police sources said the murder investigation took more than two years because so many potential suspects had

to be eliminated from the inquiry. Soon after the discovery of the bodies, M Cretello claimed that he served the couple a meal of couscous in his restaurant at around midday on April 2, 1996.

"Alain let me drive his Mercedes. He said I could get behind the wheel and take it for a spin. We got back to the restaurant, ate our meal and

then the Hays said they had to go... I saw no attaché case." M Cretello said at the time, making a reference to the Samsonite case that allegedly contained the money.

Police in Mulhouse declined yesterday to say whether M Cretello's fingerprints had been found on the submerged car.

The two men are believed to

have been planning to set up a restaurant together, but police said that there may have been a disagreement over the business.

The Hays, both aged 46, were not reported missing until a week after they vanished. Police eventually discovered tyre tracks leading to the canal and the sunken Mercedes was winched out.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Travel alert over child killer virus

Taipei: A virus that has killed 33 children in Taiwan could spread to Hong Kong and the rest of South-East Asia, a leading paediatrician said yesterday. "The spread of the virus is getting out of control," Li Chin-yun said. He advised parents not to take their children to South-East Asia and Hong Kong for the summer.

The most recent victim believed to be infected with the virus was a one-year-old girl who died in a Taipei hospital on Wednesday. Hsu Kuo-hsiung, a health department spokesman, said. The enterovirus, which attacks the intestinal tract of children under five, has been plaguing central and southern Taiwan, where most of the victims lived. (AFP)

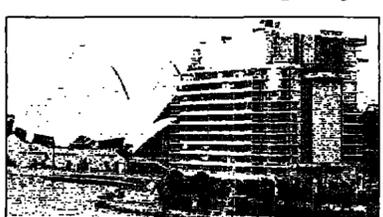
Ortega to face rape charge

Managua: A Nicaraguan judge has ordered Daniel Ortega, the former President, to appear in court to face charges that he raped and abused his stepdaughter, Zoilamérica Nolasco, 30, had filed a complaint alleging she had been molested by her stepfather since she was 11, but he has not responded publicly to her accusations. Lawyers for Señor Ortega, secretary-general of the left-wing Sandinista National Liberation Front, have claimed he has immunity because he is a deputy in the national legislature. (AFP)

Algeria train bomb kills 12

Algiers: A bomb exploded on a passenger train near the hamlet of Condeck in Ain Defia province, 80 miles southwest of Algiers, killing at least 12 passengers and wounding 21, 12 critically, the security forces said in a statement issued by the official APS news agency. It gave no word about who was responsible. Earlier, local newspapers said Muslim rebels shot dead seven government militiamen in ambushes. At least two civilians were killed by having their throats cut. (Reuters)

Most hated building stays



Sydney: Protesters including Kel Hutchence, father of the late rock star Michael Hutchence, have vowed to keep seeking the demolition of East Circular Quay, above, dubbed Australia's most hated building (Roger Maynard writes). The Prime Minister said the demolition cost of £70 million could not be justified. The 237-apartment block, nicknamed 'The Toaster', adjoins the Opera House.

Members' honour raised

Jerusalem: Four out of eight Viagra pills shown to the Israeli parliament's science committee disappeared during a debate on the anti-impotence drug. Maariv newspaper said. A doctor testifying at the meeting brought a box with the tablets, which drew much attention from committee members and journalists. Officials said the disappearance raised doubts about both groups' honesty. (AFP)

Gucci 'feared occult power of ex-wife more than hitmen'

THE Italian fashion heir Maurizio Gucci, shot dead at his Milan office three years ago, knew that his former wife had told friends that she wanted him dead, but believed she would use "occult powers" against him rather than hire hitmen, according to Gucci's lawyer, Fabio Franchini.

Patrizia Reggiani, 50, is on trial in Milan with four others for allegedly conspiring to kill Gucci in March 1995. Signor Franchini said Gucci had not been afraid. "He was a man who walked with his jacket unbuttoned and his head held high. He had no fears. He loved life and lived it to the full."

He said Gucci, who sold his shares in the Gucci company to an Arab-

Fashion guru looked for magic powders on his pillow, writes Richard Owen in Rome

owned firm, had been relieved at disentangling himself from the often tempestuous affairs of the family's luxury leather and fashion business, and at the end of his equally stormy marriage.

He had not expected violence, but had suspected that his ex-wife — to whom he was married for 12 years before a bitter separation and divorce — would use "occult magic" against him, for example by placing "magic powders" on his pillow. Signora Reggiani employed a clair-

voyante and medium, Pina Auremnia, who is also on trial and is accused of acting as her intermediary with the hitmen.

Signor Franchini said: "I told Maurizio this fear of potions and powders was absurd." Asked by the judge if it were true that Gucci was afraid to eat at home alone, in case his food was poisoned, Signor Franchini said Gucci had been "careful" about his food and had gone round all the rooms in his mansions at Milan and St Moritz

"making sure there were no charms or amulets". He said it was true that Gucci had neglected his two children, Alessandra and Allegra. "He did not devote much attention to the functions of a father."

But he said Signora Reggiani, who was incensed by the halving of her alimony and by Gucci's relationship with Paola Franchi, a younger woman, had been mistaken in believing that her former husband was planning to remarry. "After the problems he had had with the divorce from Patrizia Reggiani, he did not wish to have any further formalised relationships," Signor Franchini said.

The *Corriere della Sera* said the evidence presented since the trial opened a month ago had "reinforced the image of a rancorous woman who planned the death of her husband five years before it took place."

On Wednesday, two former domestic servants in the Gucci household testified that Signora Reggiani had talked about the murder before it happened, and had allegedly admitted it afterwards.

Luciano Punta, who worked as a driver and mechanic, said he talked to Signora Reggiani on the telephone after the killing, saying, "so you did it then", to which she had replied: "Yes, but it has left us in a mess."

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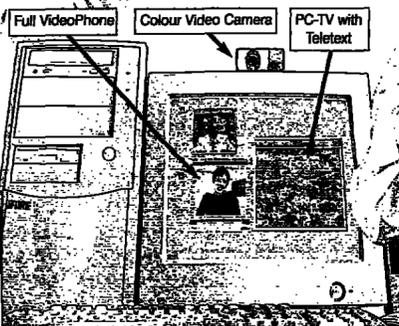
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Too good to cover



Mum! mum! I'm not coming out with you until you put a T-shirt on." Hmm. Possibly some fine tuning remains to be done — but I still think the principle of showing off your underwear is an excellent one. What's the first place, that isn't my vest. It is my beautiful new uplift bra with satin rosebud detail. And sticking out is not what they are doing. This is my own take on the sexy and sophisticated underwear-as-outerwear look, as worn by Stella McCartney, Ulrika Jonsson and Posh Spice. "Well, it looks stupid.

Underwear and Marks & Spencer go together like bread and butter, so I set off to Marble Arch where... Erik Criquey. Someone in the night department has decided to invest heavily in Citrus Brights — cruel lime green and lemon yellow as far as the eye can see — so flattering to the early-morning naked face. There was a time when Marks did a range of pure silk lingerie, but no longer. Now there is only the hard, unabsorbent glare of synthetic satin. At moments like this, a girl would quite like to take the chief executive of M&S up to the bedroom, and make him spend the night wrapped clammily in yards of bright green polyester satin, and see how he liked it... Still, a second look reveals that the cut is quite elegant — little knee-length shifts with wide shoulder straps and sweetheart necklines. And by daylight, with one's make-up on, the colours and materials might look quite summery. And they are only £16, so one could buy a handful to take away on holiday. Moving on to the bras and knickers (avoiding something

called a "tummy sculpt string", which looks more like an instrument of torture than a garment), there is a cheerful, finely striped blue and white cotton vest, £10, and matching shorts, £7.50; embroidered cotton underwired bras in black, white and primrose are £16 and matching knickers, £7. Best of all are Vivienne Westwood-ish boned bustiers in embroidered cotton, or a particularly pretty lilac devoré velvet, £16. An endearingly anachronistic pair of huge flowered bloomers is a bargain at £4.

a surly Gallic mademoiselle, but that was only the worst of such Oxford Street experiences. Still, it is worth screwing up one's courage for the sake of Calvin Klein's ice-blue bandeau bra, £28, and knickers, £18; pale-grey chiffon underwired bra, £24.50, and vest, £32.50, and exquisite cobweb chiffon slip in ivory or black, £46 (I was tempted to buy two and wear them out dancing). Also definitely for show are D&G's lemon printed net baby-doll petticoat, £82, with a matching underwired bra, £42, pants, £32, and short-sleeved vests, £55. They do a magnificently slutty black lace petticoat, £82, matching crocheted lace-trimmed bra, £32, with a little pink rosebud, and Gorgeous Gussie knickers with lace-trimmed legs (good for keeping your hanky up), £32, (also in almond green).

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CUTTING EDGE
JANE SHILLING

Continuing from M&S to the Oxford Street department stores, one makes a fascinating discovery — that big-name designers seem to produce lingerie at extraordinarily modest prices (modest, that is, compared with their main ranges). For not much more than the price of your M&S bra you can have a ravishing little something from Calvin Klein or Dolce & Gabbana. The only drawback to this cheering news is that the big stores' lingerie departments all seem to be staffed by absolute harridans, of a disagreeableness that I have only previously encountered among the nurses on obstetrics wards. I don't suppose I'll ever forget the sound of the poor pregnant lady in the next door dressing-room at Fenwick being roundly bullied by

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Jenny Agutter says she was too selfish as a young actress to have a family. Interview by Moira Petty
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The value of affairs

Jenny Agutter says she was too selfish as a young actress to have a family. Interview by Moira Petty

Few women reach their mid-forties without resorting to some cosmetic artifice. Not so Jenny Agutter. She shimmers before me in an ice-cream-coloured suit, a stranger as much to lipstick and eyeliner as she is to jaded egotism, so often the currency of those who have tasted fame early.

At 45 her hair is still girl-next-door mid-brown; she has done more streaking in her films (in the best possible taste) than at the hairdresser's. It must be confusing looking in the mirror nearly three decades after *The Railway Children* and seeing the same retouched nose. She pats its neat dimensions: "It's not necessarily good to look youthful as you get older. Luckily, your sight goes at the same degree as the wrinkles appear."

Despite the nude film roles, the years in Hollywood and her sometime role as mistress of Clivedon (the stately home now run as a hotel by her husband), she has never sought to slough off the legacy of Roberta, the eldest of the railway children.

The film of E. Nesbit's fantasy, based on her own Victorian childhood, formed an unusual template for Agutter's management of both career and life. The reason she was able to slip into Roberta's pinafores at 17, two years after she had starred in Nicholas Roeg's *Walkabout*, with its nude swimming sequences, was that she was an innocent herself, lacking in cynicism.

And while Roberta was guided by late 19th-century morality, Agutter survived teen stardom and 15 years in Hollywood thanks to "a good, solid family upbringing" in unsophisticated army postings, particularly in Cyprus. She married at 37 and became a mother on Christmas Day, 1990, five days after her 38th birthday. Yet the years between arriving in Hollywood at 21 to set up home in a bachelor flat on Sunset Boulevard and returning permanently to Britain in 1989 after meeting her husband-to-be, were remarkably tame. She made films, enjoyed the sunshine but was largely seen as an English eccentric who shunned the stimulants, high life and most of the men on offer.

"I did not run wild," she insists, "mainly because I'm a terrible control freak. Being in Los Angeles was as much of a revolution as I wanted to go through. Success is only what people can see. If you said you were out of work, people's eyes would glaze over and they would be terrified it would rub off on them. I enjoyed the peculiarity of it, without feeling I needed to participate."

All her relationships before her marriage were considered affairs. Men who featured in her life included the theatre director Patrick Garland and the MGM chief Dan Melnick, both older than her, the screenwriter John Leone and, in 1985, she began an affair with Kate O'Mara's son, Dickon who, at 22, was 11 years younger.

"I was brought up a Roman Catholic and taught that marriage was for good. I was always measuring every relationship up against this belief. I was committed to those men, those relationships, but even when I was in them I knew that they wouldn't continue."

"If I had thought that any of those relationships would go on until the end of our lives, then I would have had no



"I like being older. I enjoy the sense of time and experience, and I genuinely feel happier than I have ever been"

hesitation in marrying them. But I did not feel dependent about them. They had value even though they weren't going to last. I didn't really think about boys in my teens. I might have got close to someone in a work or social context but it was innocent. I had no real relationships with boys of my own age.

"Then in my late twenties I became aware of my biological clock, more so than when I reached my thirties. I would be thinking 'Wouldn't it be nice to have a child?' I'd look at the relationship I was in and think 'No. It isn't good enough.'"

"Having a child outside marriage would not be a situation I would have wanted to get myself into. I stopped practising Catholicism when I was 16, because I felt I couldn't keep going to confession and saying sorry for something that I knew I would do again. But the moral framework remains: you never lose that."

"By the time I met my husband at an arts festival in 1989, I felt settled on a course. I wasn't desperately looking for a man to father my child. By then I didn't even think I'd ever marry. I was satisfied with life on my own."

Her relationship with her Swedish husband, Johan Tham, "has been completely different from all the others from the outset. I was struck

by how absolutely mature he was. And maturity has got nothing to do with age. "He knew where he was going in life. He also has a wonderful sense of humour, which you don't think of in relation to Scandinavians, and you don't even touch on it when you first meet him. He's a constant surprise to me. I feel I can never completely know him but that doesn't make me feel insecure."

When they met, Agutter was still based in her house in the



As Roberta, centre, in *The Railway Children*

Hollywood Hills and for geographical reasons had no expectations of the relationship. They kept in touch by writing and phoning. "I was less obsessed by the presence of someone and more aware of other things about them."

Their son, Jonathan, is now 7. He goes to a private prep school in Dulwich "because all the good state schools were oversubscribed". They live in Vauxhall, southwest London, where they were able to buy a period property at a reasonable price. ("Four flights of stairs: good for the figure.") It is within the Westminster area, but with a permanent population of winos. "It's a community, everyone knows you. I was so worried the other day when the flowerman at Oval station wasn't there that I had to find out if he was all right. We used to live off the King's Road and that's too fly-by-night for me."

Jonathan is "decisive and quite reasonable. I found the baby stage very hard work. It just didn't come naturally. When he cried, I wasn't sure if he was hungry or needed his nappy changed. Now he's very funny. When I say 'Get into your pyjamas at once!' he says 'Mum, you could smile.'"

Agutter is equivocal about the possibility of having another child: "I'm not doing anything to prevent it. But I won't be heartbroken if I don't conceive. I've put a top age limit of 47 on having a baby. "I couldn't have been a

mother when I was younger. I couldn't have coped with anyone else in my life. I wasn't able to make a permanent commitment to a man, let alone a baby. There's no question that I was selfish before, or at least self-centred. Now that I'm part of a group, this family, you can never rely on things being the same."

She takes Jonathan to and from school whenever she can; if she is filming away from home, she insists on blocks of days off. "He gets angry and upset if I'm away for any length of time."

Agutter's own childhood was very different. Her parents lived in Cyprus, Germany and Singapore. Her father, Derek, organised entertainment for troops. Now retired, they live in Brixton and Agutter takes her son to tea with them every Monday.

At 11, Agutter was plucked from her boarding and ballet school, Elmhurst, as the child lead in the film *Ballerina*. "I was proud of the fact that people kept powdering my face. One of the child extras asked why they were paying me so much attention. Another said it was because I was so messy."

Back at Elmhurst she encountered jealousy. "I was bursting to talk about the film but many of the girls weren't too thrilled to hear about it, they put it down. I soon learnt how to survive when you're living with a group of people you don't want to be with."

She has recently recorded two feature-length episodes of *Bramwell*, the tale of a late-Victorian woman doctor, starring Jemma Redgrave, and is now producing a film on Edith Nesbit, concentrating on the year in her mid-forties when she found success as a children's writer. Although most men go into a spin when you mention Agutter's name, she claims never to have relied on her looks. "I look at old pictures of *The Railway Children* and I see spots. My parents made me feel I was beautiful but I remember straggly hair and missing teeth."

"I like being older. Of course, I wouldn't if my health failed or my face fell. I enjoy the sense of time and experience and genuinely feel happier than I've ever been."

Jenny Agutter appears in *Bramwell* on ITV at 8pm next Monday and Thursday

My theory about the conspiracy theories

Many people who have nothing better to do with their time are convinced that any event that doesn't have an immediate and obvious explanation — let's say, the death of Marilyn Monroe, the disappearance of Rudolph Hess, the inexplicable longevity of Jim Davidson's television career — must clearly be the result of some dark conspiracy. Some people, such as the film director Oliver Stone, see cover-ups almost everywhere, which is why he has been granted honorary life

membership of the Society Of Conspiracy Theorists (society motto: "There are people out there who don't want you to know we even have a motto"). For instance, the normal procedure for taking a bath in the Stone household goes as follows:

1. Stone runs bath.
2. Telephone rings. Stone verifies it is his mother calling by requesting her secret code name.
3. Stone eventually notices that overflowing bathwater is cascading through the house like a waterfall, only without so much external scenery.
4. Stone curses the CIA for tampering with his mains water pressure in an attempt to silence him.

All I can say to Stone is that for years I have been writing fearlessly about subjects that might well make people in high places tremble if they happened to be reading them during a major earthquake and I can honestly say that neither the CIA, nor MI6, nor any other similar body has ever censored or interfered with any of the copy I've filed to the editor.

Ha ha ha... brief computer failure: just one of Yevgeny's little jokes. Now where were we...? Oh yes, there are even self-trained sleuths who are investigating who exactly sold Paul Gascoigne that fateful kebab, and took those incriminating photos we saw in the following day's press. Could it all have been orchestrated by the footballer most likely to replace Gazza in the England first team? My own investigation — carried out through the rigorous journalistic method of scanning six newspapers before hazarding an opinion in time for my deadline — is that the truth lies in the fact that Gascoigne has the self-discipline of a macaroon.

And while Britons have spent the past week raking over theories behind the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, Americans have been transfixed by suspicions that Sonny Bono's recent death may have been no "skiing accident". Bono could have been a "target" due to his work with the House Intelligence Committee. It is shaping up to be the most sensational cover-up America has

seen involving a person who once sang with Cher and then became a US congressman.

Competing for attention with the "Sonny Bono was taken out" hypothesis is the theory that James Earl Ray — the man convicted of Martin Luther King's murder — was the fall guy for a government conspiracy.

In Britain, growing numbers are convinced that the real Robin Cook is chained to a radiator in Palermo, while an impostor who has undergone plastic surgery, has taken Cook's place in the Labour Cabinet as

part of a Tory conspiracy to discredit Tony Blair. Pretty scary, huh? But maybe not as scary as the possibility that this conspiracy theory is completely without foundation and that the real Robin Cook actually behaves that way.

One of the more intriguing conspiracy theories of recent weeks surfaced among interval gossip at Andrew Lloyd Webber's 50th birthday concert at the Royal Albert Hall. There have always been question marks about Oliver Stone's movie *JFK*, in which he blamed everybody from the CIA to right-wing homosexuals for Kennedy's assassination. Many people still find it hard to swallow the "lone screenplay theory": if there was only going to be one film about the murder, would it really be Stone's preposterous *JFK*?

That's why many smart people have wondered if Stone was just a patsy.

Was there, in fact, more than one Kennedy screenplay? If you believe the Albert Hall gossip, Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice had also drawn up plans for a movie! It was mysteriously suppressed and then resurfaced, in modified form, as *Evita*. But if you play the record of *Evita* backwards it is apparently possible to hear the words of their original *Kennedy*, which went:

And as for fortune
And as for fame
It's true I invited them in,
I meant girls like Monroe were
A cinch to seduce.
But what's the use, now
They've abused me and I'm
mysteriously dead.
It's one hell of an exit for me.
So please find out
who filled me with lead.
Chorus:
Don't cry for me Dallas, Texas,
You know the truth is, I never loved you.
I should have stayed in bed.
Claimed I felt woozy.
Sent Bob or Ted instead.
And watched I Love Lucy.
Wow, spooky!



MAN ON TOP
JOE JOSEPH

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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ISN'T SHE ROMANTIC?

Well, er, not really. Meg Ryan means business

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OBITUARIES

CATHERINE COOKSON

Dame Catherine Cookson, DBE, novelist, died yesterday aged 91. She was born on June 20, 1906.



Catherine Cookson in 1985. Though she wrote to a formula, it seemed never to pall on her readers

A prolific popular novelist with more than 70 titles to her credit, Catherine Cookson was a writer whose work had an extraordinary enduring following over the years. Her stock-in-trade was the readable but gritty story, ranging in period from Victorian times to the present and generally set in the industrial North East, where she had been born and grew up. The formula never seemed to go stale, either for her readers or herself. A writer of the "compulsive" school, rather than being merely mechanical in her production, she might have a dozen plots taking shape in her mind at a time, even as she was actually writing her latest novel. If not as prolific in titles as such formidable producers as Barbara Cartland or Ursula Bloom, Cookson outdistanced all her rivals as the most read author of her day. As well as being in the forefront of bestsellers she was beyond all doubt the most frequently borrowed from libraries. Year after year she topped the public library lending figures, having written, on average, a third of the top 100 titles borrowed in the last dozen years. Frequently, in recent years, nine of ten of the most borrowed library novels have been Cooksons. In a recent report on the subject from the Registrar of Public Lending Right, she had maintained this performance, with 32 titles in the top 100 books borrowed, being followed in popularity by Agatha Christie and Dick Francis. By this year, too, her total sales had soared past the 100 million mark, and she was being read in 20 languages and in 30 countries. These statistics owed nothing to the sort of sentimentality usually associated with this kind of novel-writing success. Her subject matter and prose style were a far cry from those of Barbara Cartland or Denise Robbin. Decidedly "strong" in flavour, like her own Tyneside upbringing, her books chronicled

the realities of the lives of the working people of an industrial environment in an appropriately earthy style and vocabulary. Catherine Ann Cookson was born the illegitimate daughter of Catherine Fawcett at Tyne Dock, East Jarrow. She knew her mother as Kate, and until disabused of the notion at the age of seven, thought she was her much older sister. Catherine grew up in an ethos which was both physically and mentally circumscribed. Her childhood playground was the maze of squalid streets between Tyne Dock and East Jarrow. She knew this

patch intimately from an early age, since she was often sent on errands to the off-licence a mile from her home to collect beer in a gallon jar for her mother, a hopeless alcoholic. Later forays included visits to the pawn shop and sorties to pick up the coke that fell off passing gascarts. Collecting driftwood from the beach or riverbank rated as a healthy pastime beside those tasks. In an area where illegitimacy was hardly a rare phenomenon it was nevertheless a stigma, and she had to suffer the sneers of schoolmates from an early age. She left school at 13 and went to

work as a laundry checker in a local warehouse. Her passion, nursed by reading romantic novels, was to escape from the squalor of this background to the genteel world where safety lay in marriage to an honourable man. The novels she read always had this happen in the South of England. So, after improving her accent through elocution lessons, she moved to Hastings, where she became head laundress at the workhouse. She bought a large house, keeping up the mortgage payments with great discipline from her £3 a week pay, and in 1940 she married

Thomas Cookson, a schoolmaster. Her graduation to respectability seemed to be complete. And yet great physical and mental suffering lay ahead. The hoped-for family, to fulfil her happy marriage, did not materialise. She also found that she had contracted a rare blood disease which involved continual haemorrhaging. Over the next few years, instead of children, she had four miscarriages, an experience which propelled her into years of severe depression. One of her duties as a schoolmaster's wife was to attend school functions such as cricket matches. There, she later related,

she had continually to fight an impulse to snatch babies from prams and dash them against the ground. She did not publish a book until 1950, when she was 44, but after the appearance of *Kate Hannigan*, she did not look back. The Kate of its title was a young Tyneside woman who overcame the stigma of having borne an illegitimate child. The character had certain affinities with her own mother and the novel drew strongly on reminiscences of her youth. From then on she was prolific. Over the next 45 years novels flowed first from her typewriter and then, as she followed the popular writer's technique of dictating, from her tape recorder. Some of her novels took the form of historical series such as the Mallen trilogy which traced the fortunes of a family from Victorian times to the present century. Another favourite creation was Mary Ann, a characteristic tough, wiry daughter of Tyneside. Cookson expounded the vicissitudes of her life in a series of eight books. Like most popular authors, she inclined to a more or less optimistic ending, but her strength was that she had a good grasp of dialogue and created a convincing language for her characters. If this could be sometimes strong, it was genuinely earthy, rather than merely ostentatious. Above all, she had a first-hand knowledge of the industrial milieu about which she wrote. Indeed, she and her husband eventually moved from Hastings and went to live in the North East of her birth, as she felt it important to be part of the ambience about which she wrote. Her autobiography, *Our Kate*, appeared in 1969. In it, as the title suggests, her mother and the early period of her life took the centre of the stage. A play, *The Fifteen Streets*, which was performed in London in 1968, amplified this theme, with graphically painful autobiographical scenes from her youth. The vascular disease from which she suffered all her life deprived her of her sight early in the 1990s. But she refused to let that affect her

creativity, and continued dictating novels almost to the end. Catherine Cookson never forgot the lessons of her childhood, and in later life used much of her great wealth trying to help alleviate the sufferings of those afflicted as she had been. She set up a foundation which gave over £1 million to research in molecular haematology. This was used to establish a Catherine Cookson lectureship in the subject at Newcastle University. Other charitable donations ranged from £100,000 to Sunderland Polytechnic for research into autism and tropical diseases to £26,000 for a heating system for St Peter and St Paul's Church, South Shields, which she had attended as a girl. Newcastle University's Hanton Gallery received £250,000 to help it stay open and ex-servicemen who had become ill after being involved in British nuclear tests were supported to the tune of £50,000. Towards the end of her life, Cookson, who had no previous connection with Oxbridge, suddenly donated £100,000 to St Hilda's College, Oxford, to support science studies. "I understand how hard women have had to strive for the right to be educated and how much it takes to achieve, even nowadays, particularly when one comes from a disadvantaged background. I have written a number of stories on this theme and wish to encourage environments in which women can flourish as students and scholars" was the brief statement with which she accompanied the gift. She was later contacted by Girton College, Cambridge, who wrote to her asking if she would be able to help fund an archive on women's studies for the library. She sent a cheque for £50,000 by return of post. Only recently, because of her failing health, she had been compelled to stop responding to personal pleas for charity. Appointed OBE in 1985 she was advanced to DBE for her charitable works in 1993. Too frail to travel to London to be invested with the insignia, she received it at her Tyneside home. Her husband, Tom, survives her.

HAMMOND INNES

Hammond Innes, CBE, novelist, died on June 10 aged 84. He was born on July 15, 1913.

In a long career as a writer of hugely successful adventure stories, Hammond Innes demonstrated again and again, that rather flat characters and dialogue do not much matter when an author is not trying to produce literary novels. He was, above all, a storyteller, and the stories he chose to tell centred less on the battles of men against men than on the struggle of individuals to survive against ferociously hostile nature - titanic seas, burning deserts, polar ice-floes, vertiginous mountains, towering forests. A keen sailor and woodsman, he travelled extensively through each of these wild locations before describing it. Place and weather often loom larger and more vividly than any human characters in the Innes books. This robust attitude to fiction did not endear him to the more intellectual critics, al-

though his writing and inventiveness were distinctly superior to the average level of airport bestsellers. A Hammond Innes novel contains little sex and no sadism. If any message lay behind the vigorous narrative (which he denied) it was concern for the natural environment. Innes was an active member of various committees dealing with forestry, pilotage and the encouragement of sail-training for young people. Ralph Hammond Innes was born in Horsham, Sussex, where his father worked for the Westminster Bank. He was an only child, and, looking back, he thought that a solitary childhood had taught him self-sufficiency. At his prep school he was the victim of bullying, which he also learnt to survive, one of his methods being to keep the chief bully quiet by telling stories in the dormitory. He went on to Cranbrook, where he was influenced by two masters: one was the marinet of the OTC who nevertheless conveyed an enthusiasm for

English poetry; the other taught geography and fired Innes's interest in travel. When Innes left school he joined the staff of the *Financial News*, which gave him the habit of scrupulous research. He stayed with the paper from 1934 until 1940. While he was there, he went with a press party to Exmouth. They were invited to sample the town's delights, and he chose sailing. He found the experience immediately and totally seductive. During those years as a journalist, he also wrote his first, and now forgotten, books: *The Doppelgänger* in 1937, followed by *Air Disaster*, *Sabotage Broadcast* and *All Roads Lead to Friday*. He then changed publishers, from Herbert Jenkins to Collins, and achieved a substantial success with *Wreckers Must Breathe* (1940), about U-boats operating from a disused Cornish mine. In the same year *The Trojan Horse* was published. As soon as he had completed these two books, he volunteered for the Royal Ar-

tillery; and the next, *Attack Alarm* (1941), was written largely at night, by the glow of a hurricane lamp, between air raids, while he was engaged in the defence of the RAF fighter station at Kenley. This story, which described the Battle of Britain going on around him, was serialised by the *Saturday Evening Post*. Innes served with the Eighth Army in the Middle East and Italy, but then transferred to British Army Newspapers, where he worked with such legends of Fleet Street as Hugh Cudlipp and William Connor. He was responsible for running eight Forces' papers in four countries. As the war came to an end, he determined to abandon journalism and risk becoming a full-time novelist. Before leaving the Army, he had completed *Dead and Alive* (1946), based on his knowledge of black-market racketeering in Rome and Naples. Under the name Ralph Hammond he wrote several children's books, while, as Hammond Innes, he was

carving out his own niche and establishing a reputation. *The Lonely Skier* (1947), a thriller set in the Dolomites, was the first of his novels to be filmed (as *Snowbound*, in 1948). *The White South*, published in 1949, was about whaling in the Antarctic. *Air Bridge* (1951) centred on the Berlin airlift. Hammond Innes had married, in 1937, Dorothy Mary Lang. An actress who became an author, she accompanied him on almost all his journeys. In 1956 they were in Western Canada, doing the preliminary research for *Campbell's Kingdom*, which was set in the Rockies and would later be filmed with Dirk Bogarde. Hammond Innes was fascinated by the tall trees and saddened by the ruthlessness with which they were being cut down. His books were just beginning to make good money, and he had been wanting, anyway, to possess a stake in the English countryside. So, when he and his wife got home, he bought 233 acres of derelict woodland near their house in Suffolk. He subsequently acquired and afforested parcels of land in Wales and Australia. "It's one of the proudest achievements of my life," he said, "that parts of the Ordnance Survey map which were once white are now green."



Innes at 74: good tales without literary pretensions

four years, in libraries and on the ground, to research for *The Conquistadors*, a well-received history of the Spaniards in Mexico and Peru. Ten years later he wrote a book about Captain Cook's final voyage, casting it in the form of a journal which Cook might have left. His wife died in 1989, midway through their research for a novel set in South America, the Falklands and the Antarctic. Innes, who was only able to travel the first half of this book, with me", was published in 1991, not by Collins, but by the new firm which Collins's former chief executive, Ian Chapman, had founded. This move was, in a sense, ideological. Hammond Innes, like Chapman, objected strongly to the loss of independence by Collins. Always interested in the writer's cause, he had campaigned for a Public Lending Right and was an active member of the Society of Authors - which he combined, unusually, with membership of the Royal Yacht Squadron and the Timber Growers' Association. He was also vice-president of the Association of Sea Training Organisations. In 1978 he was appointed CBE. Stevenson, Kipling and Conrad were his models. Innes was very much a man's writer. When a reviewer complained that although his settings were splendid, his characters were cardboard, he commented: "The reviewer probably likes people who are endlessly self-analytical. These are not the people I meet in the world at large, though they may be the people who live cooped in urban communities." His books were celebrations of wildness and wet, of courage and endurance. He had no children.

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FOR SALE

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UK HOLIDAYS

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

FLATSHARE

FLATSHARE

FLATSHARE

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A LANGUAGE OF 850 WORDS... ON THIS DAY June 12, 1935... BASIC ENGLISH IN MANY LANDS... different words a book of 80,000 words. Mr. Ogden estimates that to read an ordinary issue of The Times with profit a vocabulary of over 50,000 words is implied, and that actually many readers get along with 25,000 or less. Mr. Churchill has probably the largest vocabulary of any living British statesman, and Mr. Ogden estimates Mr. Churchill's working vocabulary at 25,000 to 30,000 words and his potential vocabulary at 50,000 to 60,000 words. The figure of 50,000 he also gives to the most skilled practising lawyers accustomed to studying briefs on specialized subjects and talking fluently about them. The largest vocabularies of all, ranging from 60,000 to 80,000 words, are, according to Mr. Ogden, possessed by highly educated scientists engaged in those branches of science relating to engineering. The scope of a scientist's vocabulary, he points out, is indicated by the fact that in the classification of ants - one branch only of entomology - there are 16,000 different terms. Discussing the other end of the scale, Mr. Ogden said that he would put the vocabulary of a tea-shop waitress at 7,000 to 8,000 words, although she would sometimes startle one by using words belonging to 20,000-word vocabularies.

NEWS

Brown sell-off to make £12 bn

A surprise £12 billion programme of state sell-offs to finance investment in health, education and transport was unveiled by Gordon Brown.

A majority stake in Britain's air traffic control system is to be sold; the Royal Mint and the Tote will be further privatised, and some motorway service stations will be offered to private companies.

Racing fears it will lose funds

The possibility of the Tote being fully privatised, with racing losing millions of pounds, sent a shudder through the sport. Racing in Britain is already badly funded compared with other nations.

Headmaster resigns

The veteran headmaster of a distinguished prep school has been forced to resign after an unprecedented intervention by the Department for Education.

Ulster peace crisis

The consensus on Northern Ireland was in peril after Conservative and Ulster Unionist Party leaders challenged the Government to make progressive paramilitary disarmament a condition of prisoner releases.

Angry artist

Gillian Wearing, the winner of the Turner Prize, is taking legal action over a new Volkswagen Golf commercial which, she says, plagiarises her art.

Community honours

Tony Blair wants more people who have made major contributions to their local communities to be given recognition in the Queen's Birthday and the New Year Honours.

Wife beater jailed

A City broker who beat his wife with her lover's shoe after he returned home unexpectedly and caught them together was jailed for seven years.

Legal aid danger

The Lord Chief Justice delivered a stern warning to the Government of the dangers posed by its plans to dismantle parts of the legal aid scheme.

Catherine Cookson dies at 91

Dame Catherine Cookson, the daughter of an alcoholic mother whose novels have sold 110 million copies in 17 languages, died in Newcastle upon Tyne, aged 91. She did not start writing until she was 44 but produced 70 books and left manuscripts that will ensure a seamless output for ten years.

Lawrence inquiry

An attempt by police to question the parents of Stephen Lawrence about damning criticism of the investigation into their son's murder was halted by the chairman of the public inquiry into events surrounding the death.

Transport bonuses

Senior executives of London Transport were given a 13 per cent increase in performance-related bonuses last year, despite consistently failing to hit government quality targets.

Morning after pill

A campaign to make the emergency contraceptive pill available to women without them having to visit a doctor won the backing of dozens of MPs.

Kosovo warning

Tony Lloyd, the British Foreign Office minister, told Albanian leaders in Kosovo the international community was determined to prevent bloodshed.

Zoo standards

Britain is confident of strong backing from European Union states for the first Europe-wide law on minimum conditions for zoo animals.

Trade union contest

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and Gerhard Schröder, his Social Democratic challenger, began a fight for the hearts of the trade union movement.



Nobody wanted to lounge on the beach at Scarborough yesterday as Britain's dismal start to the summer continued. Page 1

BUSINESS

Insider clampdown: New powers to tackle market abuses — including insider-dealing by companies — were unveiled by the Financial Services Authority.

Asian woes: Financial markets suffered heavy losses again after the Japanese yen slumped to a seven year low. The yen slipped below 142 to the dollar for the first time since June 1991 amid concern over Japan's economic prospects.

Hotels sale: Loroño is selling the Princess chain of luxury hotels to Canadian Pacific for £332 million, completing its transition into a focused mining group.

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 134.9 to 5825.5. Sterling rose to 104.8 from 104.3, rising 17 cents to \$1.6302 and 1.56 pfennig to DM2.9412.

SPORT

World Cup: Roberto Baggio saved Italy from defeat in their opening match with a controversial late penalty. They drew 2-2 with Chile, for whom Marcelo Salas scored both goals.

Tennis: Tim Henman reached the third round of the Stella Artois championships with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Sergi Sargsian who beat him in the French Open.

Motor racing: Nigel Mansell's Ford Mondeo was hit from the rear and punctured into the gravel on the second lap of a practice session at Donington Park.

Racing: Kieren Fallon gave up three rides at Newbury after hurting his right knee. The injury could threaten his participation at Royal Ascot.

ARTS

Richard Morrison: "Wasn't May 1 the date set for Sir Richard Eyre to deliver on the future of opera and ballet in London, a report upon which millions of pounds, hundreds of jobs and the fate of three companies depend?"

Mixed success: A triumph for the Royal Opera in Germany but a disaster for Baden-Baden, which now boasts one of the world's ugliest opera houses.

Dance superstar: You may never have heard of Jean Bérilín, but the long-dead Swedish choreographer just could be the man to set the world of dance on fire.

Pop on Friday: Caitlin Moran discovers the joys of Six by Seven, while David Sinclair tunes in to Dr John's latest.

FEATURES

Railway child: At 45 Jenny Agutter still shimmers like the girl next door and is enjoying work, motherhood and marriage.

Revealed: Jane Shilling takes a tip from Superman and dons her underwear as outerwear.

Capital campaign: The Evening Standard shows signs of reviving its local focus with its coverage of the mayoral contest.

Mail master: Sally Taylor on Sir David English.

Uncommon man: Studs Terkel, the radical writer and broadcaster, lays down journalistic lore to Michael Leapman.

On the ball: Advertisers making the most of the World Cup even if they are not sponsors.

EDUCATION

Working lesson: Labour's plans to open a University of Industry are now taking off.

THE PAPERS

Byrd's death is America's shame, evidently another man tortured for no reason other than the colour of his skin. As the nation enters a new century it is too easy and glib to shake our heads and pretend that what happened to James Byrd Jr. couldn't still happen anywhere.

— The Los Angeles Times



Catherine Cookson, the daughter of an alcoholic mother whose novels have sold 110 million copies in 17 languages, died in Newcastle upon Tyne, aged 91. She did not start writing until she was 44 but produced 70 books and left manuscripts that will ensure a seamless output for ten years.

TOMORROW

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

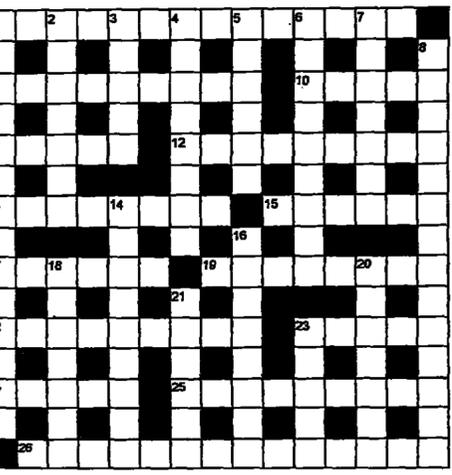
SLAP HAPPY

Why celebrity yobs beat up their girlfriends

ANNE ROBINSON

Who cares if Jeffrey Archer faked his CV?

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,816



- ACROSS
1 Favourite meeting-place making an impression, with reason (8,6).
9 Better spare something for beggar to take, humbly (3,2,4)
10 Native American, nonetheless, returned from Indonesia (5).
11 Girl Browning thought of returning home for? (5).
12 Racy model to display wound (6,3).
13 Royalist lost without a companion (8).
15 Release payment, children's author being short (6).
17 Nicker? A lot less money (6).
19 Old Prime Minister left the country (8).
22 The main course is a little behind (4,5).
23 Leave port for Croatia (5).
24 Singer's note in audition (5).
25 Carried by the breeze from the wood (2,7).
26 Bad language, such as oath? (4-6,4).

The solution of The Times Crossword Championship 1998 Qualifying Puzzle No 20,815 will be published on Monday, June 22.

FORECAST

General: after a chilly start, much of England and Wales will be fairly sunny, with rain in the South West later. Scotland and N Ireland will have sunshine and isolated showers.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Channel Isles: cold but fine start, then sunny spells. Wind light, northwest, slowly backing moderates, southwest. Max 18C (64F).

E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N and NE England: cold start then sunny spells with showers later. Wind light, northwest, backing southwest. Max 15C (59F).

SW England, S Wales: sunny spells, rain later. Max 16C (61F).

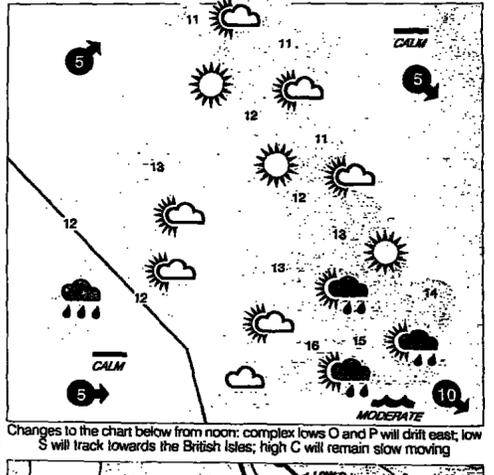
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, max, min, and wind. Locations include Aberdeen, London, Manchester, etc.

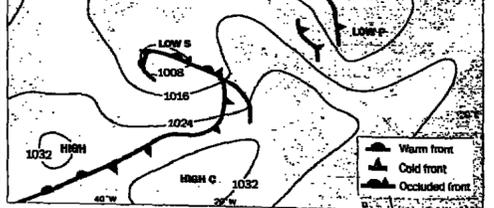
ABROAD

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, max, min, and wind. Locations include London, Paris, Rome, etc.

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: complex lows O and P will drift east, low S will track towards the British Isles; high C will remain slow moving



HIGH TIDES

Table with columns for location, AM, PM, and tide height. Locations include Aberdeen, London, etc.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table with columns for location, AM, PM, and temperature. Locations include London, Manchester, etc.

Advertisement for OWPAC (Office Workers' Pension Association) with contact information and a logo.

Advertisement for Toshiba air conditioning units, highlighting their reliability and energy efficiency.

Advertisement for Acer desktop computers, featuring the Acer Extensa series and highlighting their performance and reliability.

A large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring a '2 TODAY' logo and various headlines like 'INSIDE SECTION', 'WELCOME', 'Second biggest this year for', 'Collapsing to Asia', and 'Acer red'.

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



ECONOMICS
West feels claws of stricken Asian tiger
PAGE 33



ARTS
Neil Finn goes from Crowded House to solo music-making
PAGES 38-39



MEDIA
How to play spot the World Cup sponsor
PAGES 40-43

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 54, 55

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JUNE 12 1998

Welcome for spending plan tempered by Bank worry

By Alasdair Murray and Janet Bush

WORRIES about the Bank of England's reaction to the Chancellor's new public spending plans took the edge off an otherwise enthusiastic reaction from the City yesterday.

Gordon Brown announced that he would raise spending by 2.25 per cent a year for the rest of the Parliament, a more cautious figure than many had anticipated.

Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, applauded the Chancellor's package for its prudence and said that it should be neutral for interest rates.

He said: "This is an incredibly conservative package that would not have been surprising to see from a Tory Chancellor and wasn't imaginable from an old Labour one."

Others in the market worried about the current course of interest rate policy after last

week's unexpected rate rise focused on the Chancellor's plans for increased capital spending. Speaking at the Mansion House dinner last night, Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, robustly defended the Monetary Policy Committee decision.

Simon Briscoe, director of research at Nikko Europe, said: "It looks like there is scope for a fairly decent increase in expenditure and the markets are worried about anything that implies fiscal loosening at the moment."

Adam Cole, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said that the spending plan would do nothing to "bring forward the first interest rate cut".

Treasury officials insisted that the new plans were actually tighter than those contained in the March Budget. One said: "If we do not deliver we will be judged accordingly."

Andrew Dilnot, director of

the Institute for Fiscal Studies, said that the Chancellor's spending plans were still striking in their caution. He calculates that current spending would rise by only 1.4 per cent a year in real terms over the lifetime of the current Parliament. This compares with 1.9 per cent under the last Conservative Government.

He said: "The rate of growth of spending is going to be slower than under the last Government and remember that the last Government got into a political mess about the deterioration of public services."

Mr Dilnot conceded that the Government would go some way to compensate for tight control on current spending by boosting capital spending.

However, even in this respect, the Government is not promising anything dramatic. Economists estimated that investment, having been cut dramatically under the last five years of Conservative rule, would barely be restored to the levels that prevailed in 1991-92 by the end of the current Parliament.

The City welcomed many aspects of the package, including the three-year Budgets, the commitment to bring on the ratio of debt to GDP, the separation of departmental budgets into current and capital spending and the ring-fencing of the social security budget which is uniquely sensitive to the economic cycle.

Mr George told City leaders that the rate rise last week should not have come as a shock. He said that the furore proved that "Hell hath no fury like a wrong-footed financial commentator". He argued that the City should have noted that the last Inflation Report a month ago emphasised the great uncertainties of the current situation.

"The interest rate decision showed simply that what were always fine judgments changed with the facts — as I can assure you they will in future, in either direction," Mr George said.



Eddie George defended the rate rise last week which, he said, should not have been a shock

City abuzz over plans for private investment in Mint

By Carl Mortished, Jason Nisse and Dominic Walsh

THE ROYAL Mint and the Tote may look like a licence to print money but plans to boost the public coffers with private investment could go awry. The business of making banknotes is in trouble around the world.

The City is buzzing after the Treasury announced yesterday that public-private partnerships are planned for National Air Traffic Control, the Commonwealth Development Corporation, the Royal Mint and the Tote.

De La Rue, the world's largest private banknote printer and partner in Camelot, the lottery consortium, has long harboured an interest in taking over the business of printing the Queen's money.

However, worldwide overcapacity in the business forced De La Rue recently to announce plans to shut down 25 per cent of its printing capacity. Richard Finch, analyst at Crédit Lyonnais, said: "It might be attractive with a cosy contract and permission to make redundancies."

Likewise the price tag and ultimate buyer of a 51 per cent stake in National Air Traffic Services is not clear, although the Government would like to raise £500 million. The business handles 1.6 million flights a year and makes operating profits of around £50 million. However, its new £340 million centre at Swanwick in Hampshire has been dogged with technical problems and delays.

Likely buyers might include EDS, the US group that runs the back office systems for the Inland Revenue, Lockheed Martin, IBM and Sema, the Anglo-French information technology company.

The bookies' favourite for the Tote is Nomura International, the Japanese securities house that last year paid £700 million for William Hill, the betting shop chain.

Second biggest fall this year for FTSE

By Alasdair Murray

THE London stock market suffered its second largest fall this year as the renewed turmoil in Asia took its toll of Western markets.

Britain's safe-haven status, however, helped to push gilt prices to levels last seen in the 1960s, while the pound also made strong ground against the mark.

The FTSE 100 fell through much of the day to close down 134.9 at 5,852.9. A sharp fall on Wall Street, which lost more than 100 points in early trading, added to the nervousness on the stock market. Stocks with exposure in Asia were the biggest losers. HSBC, Cable & Wireless and Standard Chartered all fell more

than 4 per cent. Exporter stocks were also hit hard by sterling's advance.

The pound closed at a five-week high against the mark. Sterling rose over one and half pennings to DM2.942 and by 0.5 on its trade-weighted index to end at 104.8.

Gilts pushed ahead on the back of safe-haven buying with the yield on a ten-year gilt falling from 5.74 per cent to 5.60 per cent, the lowest for over 30 years. The Debt Management Office helped the buying spree by announcing cancellation of the planned long-dated gilt auction at the end of this year after the Chancellor's public spending statement.

Stock market, page 32

Collapsing yen adds to Asia market woe

By Robert Whyment in Tokyo and Alasdair Murray

ASIAN financial markets suffered heavy losses again yesterday after the Japanese yen slumped to an eight-year low.

The yen slipped to 143.5 to the dollar as gloom over Japan's economic prospects continued to weigh on the markets. Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, added to the gloom by appearing to rule out any international support for the yen.

The latest fall further increased fears that China will be forced to devalue the yuan to relieve pressure on the country's exporters. Zhu Bangzao, Chinese Foreign Minister, called on Japan to show "courage and wisdom" to help to halt the yen's decline. He added that China remained committed to preserving the value of the yuan

and would also continue to support Hong Kong's effort to maintain its currency tie with the US dollar.

Analysts, however, are increasingly sceptical about the Chinese Government's ability to ward off devaluation. US dollars are in growing demand on the Chinese currency black market while the red-chip stocks, Chinese companies listed in Hong Kong, have lost about 20 per cent of their value this week, as investors bet on devaluation.

Tokyo's Nikkei index was among the biggest losers in Asia yesterday, closing down 325.22 points or 2.12 per cent, at 15,014.04. Bank shares were among the most actively traded issues, falling prey to concerns that Asia's turbulence will saddle Japan's

banks with a fresh load of non-performing loans. In turn, the fall in banking stocks drove down Japanese Government bonds (JGBs), amid worries that the banks will have difficulty raising funds.

In other Asian markets, Hong Kong plunged to a three-year low, closing down 93.90 at 7,886.07. Stocks in Manila lost 5 per cent, while the Bangkok market fell more than 2 per cent.

"Japan is in a fragile situation," said Russell Jones, chief economist for Lehman Brothers Japan. "Japan is desperately in need of a pleasant surprise from the point of view of policy, or of the economy. But, right now, I don't see where that will come from."

Asia's crisis, page 33

Big bill for refinery closure

SHELL faces a clean-up bill running to "tens of millions of pounds" if it goes ahead with plans to shut its refinery at Shell Haven in Essex (Carl Mortished writes).

Almost 500 jobs would be lost with the closure of the refinery. Shell blamed overcapacity in the UK, which has 10 refineries and produces 12 million tonnes more petrol and diesel than the country needs.

The company will shift its investment focus to the Stanlow refinery at Ellesmere Port in Cheshire. New EU specifications for petrol and diesel would require further investment at Shell Haven.

The refinery was first opened in 1916 to supply fuel to the Royal Navy, which was converting its fleet from coal to oil.

Super-regulator sets out code of conduct

By Richard Miles

A BATTERY of new powers to tackle market abuses — including insider dealing by companies — was unveiled by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) yesterday.

The super-regulator, which is expected to assume its new powers in 2000, published a draft code of market practice, setting out what types of behaviour would warrant disciplinary action.

Its ultimate civil sanction will be an unlimited fine, but the FSA also retains the power to pursue a criminal prosecution where appropriate. The statutory code covers the UK's six main financial markets, including the London Stock Exchange and the London Metal Exchange and Life.

Michael Foot, formerly head of enforcement at the Bank of

England and now the FSA managing director responsible for supervision, said there would also be a mechanism for securing compensation for victims of market abuse on the basis of "polluter pays".

The FSA's powers will be applicable to both firms and individuals, whether regulated or not. Financial journalists and public relations firms will also be subject to the code, most notably if they disseminate misleading information about an investment in which they have a material interest. FSA officials will be able to demand interviews and documents from anyone suspected of market abuse, with powers to punish those who do not cooperate. There will also be an appeals tribunal, run by the Lord Chancellor's Office.

Insider dealing, which has been notoriously difficult to prove in the past, is covered by the code. In 1996-97, the Department of Trade and Industry secured just two criminal convictions for insider dealing. Under the code, the offence will be extended to companies for the first time.

Any attempt to distort prices, or to carry out artificial transactions to mislead others, will also be embraced by the code.

Mr Foot said the combination of the code and FSA's new powers "should further enhance London's reputation for clean and fair markets".

The finance industry has until November to express its views on the proposals.

Commentary, page 31

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5852.9	(-134.9)
Yield	2.85%	
FTSE All share	2796.84	(-51.19)
Nikkei	15014.04	(-325.22)
New York		
Dow Jones	8852.87	(-118.89)
S&P Composite	1099.02	(-13.26)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	106 3/4%	(107 1/2%)
Yield	5.69%	(5.70%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7%	(7 1/4%)
Life long gilt		
future (Sep)	110.57	(109.98)

STERLING

New York		
\$	1.8296*	(1.8295)
London		
DM	1.6393	(1.6286)
DM	2.9412	(2.9258)
FF	8.8610	(8.8108)
SFR	143.22*	(141.52)
Yen	232.46	(230.04)
\$ Index	104.8	(104.3)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

London		
DM	1.8040*	(1.7982)
FF	6.0485*	(6.0235)
SFR	1.4805*	(1.4842)
Yen	143.22*	(141.52)
\$ Index	113.3	(112.6)

TOKYO CLOSURE

Tokyo close	Yen 141.65	
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NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$13.90	(\$13.86)
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SOYBEAN

London close	\$288.75	(\$283.15)
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* denotes midday trading price

Halifax challenges MPs' stand on mutuals

By Caroline Merrell

THE HALIFAX is attempting to lessen the impact of an early day motion supporting mutualism by extolling the virtues of flotation in a letter to the 72 MPs who have signed the proposal.

The motion refers to this month's vote on the future of the Nationwide, and the impact it could have on savings and borrowing rates in the high street.

It says: "This house recognises that building societies are widely trusted by consumers, and notes that they provide essential diversity on the high street, accounting for a growing share of the market; it further notes that, as they do not have to pay dividends to external shareholders so they can offer cheaper mortgages and better returns on savings."

The Nationwide's status as a mutual building society is again under threat, as members are being asked to vote over whether it should convert to a bank.

Nationwide confounded expectations earlier this week by revealing that its policy of offering lower mortgage rates than its rivals by handing out benefits through a mutual package had given it an enormous share of the new mortgage market.

One of the biggest losers in the price war has been the Halifax, which has seen its share of the new mortgage market dwindle in the past 12 months.

The flotation of the Nationwide could reverse this trend.

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ECONOMIC AND FISCAL STRATEGY REPORT

Why the spending round had to go

The Chancellor announced a new regime of public spending control that will reform the rules that govern public finances. Next comes the spending review

The following are extracts from the first Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report.

The comprehensive spending review results, when published, will not only show changes in priorities within and between departments but must redefine the role of government so that it is enabling and empowering, not centralising and controlling.

For 30 years British public spending has been characterised by:

- an annual spending round rather than long-term planning;
a year-to-year bidding culture, with all the problems of hurried end-of-year corrections, instead of strategic planning of resources;
incremental bids not tied to outcomes, rather than spending to achieve defined results;
too much attention to current spending and muddling through, too little attention to long-term investment and reform;
too much focus on the public sector acting in isolation from the private sector and not enough long-term partnership with it.

A decisive break with this old-fashioned and short-termist culture is needed. The Government's Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report is based on four key themes listed below:

FISCAL PRUDENCE

The Code for Fiscal Stability sets out the broad fiscal framework. Within that framework, the Government's approach is defined by two strict fiscal rules applied over the economic cycle: the golden rule and the sustainable investment rule.

vestment rule (the latter requiring the net public debt to GDP ratio to be held at a stable and prudent level). These rules reinforce economic stability, which is vital for growth and employment.

The fiscal stance was tightened very considerably in 1997-98. The new projections in this report lock in the fiscal tightening projected in the March Budget.

The Government has set firm plans for overall spending over the remainder of this Parliament based on a careful assessment of what can be afforded while still meeting the fiscal rules and the Government's spending priorities.

INVESTMENT AND ASSETS

The Government will establish an Investing in Britain Fund to renew and improve Britain's infrastructure and public sector. This fund will allow public sector net investment almost to double, stabilising at 1 1/2 per cent of GDP by the end of this Parliament.

The Government will also continue to improve public sector asset management to produce a more efficient and effective use of resources.

WIDER REFORM

The Government's central economic objective is to achieve high and stable levels of economic growth and employment, while also respecting the environment.

The Government has put in place major fiscal and monetary policy reforms to deliver greater economic stability and has introduced a wide-ranging programme of structural policy reforms to encourage work and increase productivity.

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

The Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report spelt out the Government's central economic objective of achieving high and stable levels of growth and employment.

The key points made were: raising the sustainable level of economic growth and employment will provide greater opportunity, higher incomes, improved public services and higher standards of living for all.

Three areas are vital: economic stability, encouraging work and raising productivity; the Government has put in place major fiscal and monetary policy reforms to deliver greater stability, and it has also introduced a wide-ranging programme of structural



The Bad Old Days were epitomised by the Jarrow March — the Government hopes to reduce boom and bust cycles and make a break with the past

STABLE AND LONG-TERM PLANS

The Government is establishing a firm public expenditure envelope for the next three years. This gets away from the short-termism, incrementalism and excessive departmentalism of annual spending rounds.

FISCAL FRAMEWORK

The Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report discusses the framework for fiscal policy and explains how this strategy will help to build the platform of stability needed to achieve high and stable levels of growth and employment.

THE KEY POINTS MADE WERE:

raising the sustainable level of economic growth and employment will provide greater opportunity, higher incomes, improved public services and higher standards of living for all.

THE KEY POINTS MADE WERE:

the Code for Fiscal Stability sets out the broad fiscal framework, within which the Government's approach is defined by two strict fiscal rules.

THE KEY POINTS MADE WERE:

the Government has set firm plans for overall spending over the remainder of this Parliament based on a careful assessment of what can be afforded while still meeting the fiscal rules and the Government's spending priorities.

Government on track with cautious approach to economy

DEVELOPMENTS in the economy since the March Budget have been broadly in line with expectations. As a result, there is no change to the key economic assumptions underpinning the fiscal projections.

As in the Budget, the assumptions used represent the lower end of the range of GDP projections. The reasons for this cautious approach are discussed further.

The main economic indicators released since completion of the Budget forecast have turned out much as expected.

The latest estimate of GDP growth in the first quarter of 1998, at 0.5 per cent, was in line with the Budget forecast. Within that, the main expenditure components, in particular consumer spending, fixed investment and net trade,

were also close to forecast, as was manufacturing production on the output side.

Underlying inflation, as measured by the retail prices index excluding mortgage interest payments, averaged 2.6 per cent in the first quarter, as projected at Budget time, and the rise to 3 per cent in April is consistent with the Budget forecast of 3 per cent for the second quarter.

Domestic demand growth still looks set to fall back in the second quarter, with latest monthly indicators pointing to a slowdown in consumer spending, and the boost from stock building in the first quarter likely to be temporary.

Moreover, exchange rate and world developments give no clear grounds for revising the forecast

for net trade. In the first quarter, sterling was on average a little stronger than projected, reflecting appreciation through March. But its subsequent depreciation has brought it back close to the path assumed for the Budget forecast.

The world outlook on balance remains broadly unchanged, underpinned by robust growth in the US and Europe. The central estimate for the impact on the UK economy of financial turbulence in Asia is unchanged. However, recent financial market volatility in Asia and Russia has again highlighted the risks surrounding the world outlook.

Thus, overall, the economic forecast made at Budget time has kept on track and the short-term outlook remains intact. This is consistent with the view of independent forecasters, who have not on average materially revised their short-term forecasts for GDP growth and inflation in recent months.

In particular, after a period of above trend growth last year, most forecasters currently predict a period of below trend growth for a while. There is, of course, always the risk that the current cyclical position of the economy has been assessed incorrectly because of problems either with measuring key economic indicators, or with estimating underlying trends. The main risk is that output is now further above trend than estimated, implying a less healthy underlying fiscal position (ie, a larger cyclically adjusted deficit) and greater than expected inflationary

pressure in the pipeline. This explains, at least partly, what went wrong in the late 1980s: initial underestimation of actual GDP growth and over-optimism about the trend level (and growth rate) of GDP meant that output was much further above trend than assumed at the time. These were critical factors for the subsequent deterioration in the public finances.

Early estimates of GDP growth should now be less prone to revision than in the late 1980s. Wide-ranging improvements to statistical surveys and better national accounting methods have been progressively introduced since the early 1990s. This appears to have reduced, though possibly has not eliminated, the problem of downward bias in initial estimates of

GDP growth during upswings. In the past such bias has tended to be positively associated with the strength of GDP growth.

But, over the recent past, there is little evidence from other economic indicators to suggest that growth has been nearly as strong as in the boom of the late 1980s. At that time, the economy was adjusting to systemic changes in the financial system and, for example, house prices, private sector business surveys, and balance of payments statistics were all indicative of overheating. Recently there have been few similar parallels, with most indicators and anecdotal evidence signalling relatively benign economic conditions. In these circumstances, reasons for expecting upward revisions to initial

estimates of GDP growth are further reduced. Nevertheless, it would not be prudent to rule out such revision.

It is vital not to repeat the mistakes of the last economic cycle. For this reason the lessons have been fully reflected in the design of the new fiscal framework. In particular, a cautious assumption for trend growth has been used in projecting the public finances and alternative fiscal projections are presented based on an assumption that output is 1 1/2 per cent further above trend than assumed for the central projection. This would be pessimistic but within the range of possibilities. Even on this basis, the Government is on track to meet its fiscal rules, though the margin would then be limited.

within which they must manage and plan ahead to deliver modern public services. This represents a significant step towards Resource Accounting and Budgeting, which will further reinforce delivery of the fiscal framework.

The Government spelt out its plans for the next three years to set a framework for the conclusions of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The key points were:

the fiscal stance was tightened very considerably in 1997-98. The new projections in this report lock in the fiscal tightening projected in the March Budget.

over the three years 1996-97 to 1999-2000, public sector net borrowing will have fallen by 3 1/2 per cent of GDP—the same fall as in the March Budget.

the public sector net cash requirement will have fallen by 20 per cent of GDP, again the same as set out in the March Budget.

the Government has set firm plans for overall spending over the remainder of this Parliament based on a careful assessment of what can be afforded whilst meeting the fiscal rules and the Government's key spending priorities.

As such it sets the framework for the conclusions of the CSR. To ensure that the golden rule is met, the CSR will be based on an average real growth of current spending of 2 1/2 per cent per annum;

an Investing in Britain Fund will be established. Public sector net investment will increase and stabilise at just under 1 1/2 per cent of GDP by the end of this Parliament, but remain within prudent bounds; and the ratio of net public debt to GDP is projected to decline below 40 per cent of GDP, which is prudent over this economic cycle;

as part of an improvement in managing public sector assets, and as a precursor to Resource Accounting and Budgeting, new Departmental Investment Strategies will be agreed by the Treasury and published, and a programme of disposals will occur;

the Government's approach to fiscal policy is consistent with the UK's European commitments, in particular the Stability and Growth Pact.

THE TIMES FRIDAY... There have been... about... whether... new... significant... Gordon... work for... the detailed... the... Review... the... into a... finally... was... Labour... Some... this... won't... Some... eye-catching... the... the... one... true... private... provide...

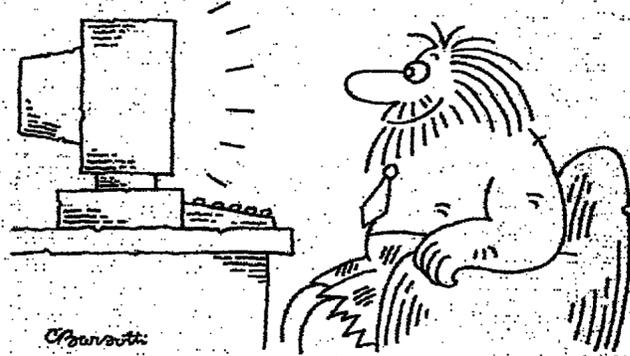
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TOURIST RATE... Table with multiple columns and rows of text, likely listing travel rates or prices for various destinations.

السنة 1419 هـ

d to go

Brown's brave new world



COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

There have been many occasions when we have collectively laughed at the Chancellor when he has talked about transparency and accountability and wondered whether this was just a horrible piece of new Labour-speak, signifying nothing.

Gordon Brown's new framework for fiscal policy and public spending, complete apart from the detailed departmental budgets that will be published when the Comprehensive Spending Review is tied up, deserves less cynicism and some admiration. The Treasury has tied itself into a straitjacket that should finally lessen any lingering fears in the City that, behind the prudent facade, this Government was itching to return to old Labour habits of tax and spend. Some members might, but on this evidence, Gordon Brown won't be letting them.

Some City voices, looking at eye-catching headlines about the sell-off of public assets, initially responded to the Chancellor's spending plans as a loosening of the fiscal stance that would upset the bank. This view appears to owe more to the dreadful state of nerves about what the Monetary Policy Committee is up to than a true reflection of spending projections which are, by anybody's standards, tough. The private sector and the much vaunted public/private partnerships are going to be looked to provide much of the infra-structure improvements we need. More important than the bold numbers, however, is the Chancellor's new framework. In myriad ways, it imposes a considerable self-discipline on government, central and departmental. There is the Golden Rule that limits borrowing to finance investment, sound business practice which acts as a limit on current spending. There is a public commitment with announced figures for bearing down on Britain's debt to national income ratio. Successive Conservative Chancellors had the same desire but never pinned their colours quite so firmly to a specific figure.

Plans are made and publicly announced for three years in advance, a welcome move away from the short-termism of the old annual brinkmanship of the spending round. Departments are being made to stick to two separate budgets for current and capital spending and not move funds from one to the other. The social security budget, which will continue to be reviewed annually, has been separated from all other budgets. This makes sense because of its extreme sensitivity to the cycle. Both these measures are meant

to protect capital spending from overruns on current spending. Overall, the Chancellor and his Treasury team have been courageous in staking their reputation on a series of tough numbers right up until the next election, leaving only limited room for the usual pre-election spending bribes, and to have tied themselves into a system that makes it far more difficult to resort to creative accounting when events turn against them.

Chancellor gears up for a car boot sale

It was always going to be hard to resist the temptation of describing Gordon Brown's privatisation plans as "selling off the family silver" when the Royal Mint tops the lists of assets to be placed on the auction block. The reality is much less exciting — more a spring cleaning of the cellar ahead of the car boot sale

than the wholesale disposal of the family valuables.

Mr Brown has closely scrutinised the new National Asset Register to single out a motley collection of motorway service station freeholds, mobile phone licences and long-forgotten government service providers that would benefit from an injection of private-sector funding. Some of the sales, such as the part-disposal of National Air Traffic Services is less to raise money than to cut government costs. The new air traffic control centre in Hampshire is still not completed and the project has run massively over budget. The Royal Mint will also offer limited opportunities for fund-raising as the Government will still have to contract to buy back most of its services.

Other disposals make perfect sense because the assets have long sat uncomfortably within the public sector. The Commonwealth Development Fund,

which will be partially floated, has been itching to be cut loose because Treasury rules have long prevented it raising new funds to help to expand its investment activities in the emerging markets of the developing world. The Tote seems an anachronism in the highly commercialised gambling sector which has long since won its battle for respectability.

The total package appears distinctly modest and certainly does not herald a return to the mega-privatisations of the 1980s. The Treasury expects central Government will raise around £1 billion a year from disposals, including major land and property sales. This sum will be dwarfed by the less hyped local authority sell-off programme, also announced yesterday, which the Government hopes will raise a further £2.75 billion a year — although it was not immediately clear how much of this money the authorities will actually keep.

It is hard to believe within these parameters that Mr Brown will be rushed into making the kind of poor pricing decisions that dogged some earlier sell-offs, such as the railways. The Chancellor will need, however, to keep his wits about him once the City arrives to help with the sales. After all, the novice so often gets fleeced at car boot sales.

Watchdog is still tied and muzzled

The Financial Services Authority wants to leave no one in any doubt that it intends to be a tough regulator of the markets. The vehemence with which it yesterday declared war on insider traders and market manipulators was positively blood curdling. Criminal prosecutions and unlimited fines await the guilty. But not yet. It will be 2000 before the FSA can start really wielding its power, which may be interpreted in some quarters as offering a tempting window of opportunity for sharp practice. After all, the current rules hardly count as a deterrent, witness the pitiful number of prosecutions for insider trading.

The draft code of conduct that the FSA has produced resounds with good intentions of securing fair play but may, nonetheless, be hard to implement in full. There will be many who welcome the prospect of bringing financial public relations people and journalists under the umbrella of the code and penalising them when they produce misleading information, but they will only be culpable where they have a "material interest" at stake. What constitutes such an interest could be harder to pin down than the offence.

The concept of demanding compensation for those who have suffered in what used to be deemed the victimless crime also raises the scope for endless debate. There will surely be some clever lawyers who see here plenty of scope for fee-spinning class actions by aggrieved shareholders.

Water result

THE Millennium Experience will have been obliged to shop around before deciding which company should service the water needs of the Dome. There will be some relief that Thames has landed the contract for the river-side project. With a high-tech system, it will recycle used water into an ornamental lagoon. The millennium bug compliance officer, for whom the Dome is still hunting, will no doubt stress that this system must be bug-free.

Canadians to buy hotels from Lonrho

By JASON NISSÉ AND DOMINIC WALSH

LONRHO took a step closer to checking out of the hotel business yesterday as it announced a conditional agreement to sell Princess Hotels to Canadian Pacific Hotels, Canada's biggest hotel company, for US\$540 (£330 million).

The price is around \$100 million more than Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, the Saudi investor, had agreed to pay for the chain of luxury hotels in a deal that fell apart in December.

The deal also does not cover the Princess hotel and casino in the Bahamas, which is being sold separately. Jones Lang Wootton, the surveyors, is marketing that operation and a deal worth around \$60 million is expected in the next few weeks.

Once that is sold it will bring to an end a disposal which has taken Lonrho nearly 18 months to complete and will also complete the restructuring of the group, which started when Dieter Bock ousted Tiny Rowland from the position of chief executive more than four years ago. The Lonrho that will be left is solely focused on mining and will have debts of just 25

per cent of shareholders' funds.

The shake-up has included selling Lonrho's other hotel chain, Metropole Hotels of the UK, to Stakis for £327 million as well as the demerger of Lonrho Africa and the sale of the sugar business. When the Princess sale is completed, Lonrho is expected to look for a new name.

Canadian Pacific Hotels beat off stiff competition for the Princess chain, with the nearest underbidder believed to be Starwood Lodging, the owner of the Sheraton chain.

The operation, which was founded just over 100 years ago, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Canadian Pacific, an energy and transport company that started life as a railroad company and is quoted on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges. Its container freight division, Canadian Pacific Ships, is based in London. It operates 28 four- and five-star hotels under the Canadian Pacific brand, many of them landmark properties such as the Banff Springs Hotel in the Rocky Mountains and Château Frontenac in Quebec City.

Johnson Matthey warning

By CARL MORTSHED

JOHNSON MATTHEY gave warning yesterday that margins in its electronics business could be hurt by the downturn in the semiconductor industry.

Profits at the metals and industrial materials group rose 20 per cent to £130 million last year and the company reckons the overall outlook is positive. However, Chris Clark, JM's new chief executive, said that pressure from Japanese competitors was affecting prices.

Margin pressure is pushing JM to transfer part of its operations to the Far East.

Cashflow from operations was up 26 per cent to £156 million owing to better control of working capital. The company is paying a dividend of 17.8p for the year, up 15 per cent on the previous year and covered by 44.3p of earnings.

Mr Clark said he expected a strong performance from the platinum business, catalytic converters and recovery in the ceramics business to offset any lower growth in electronic materials.

Tempus, page 32

Chief talks up Lonrho Africa

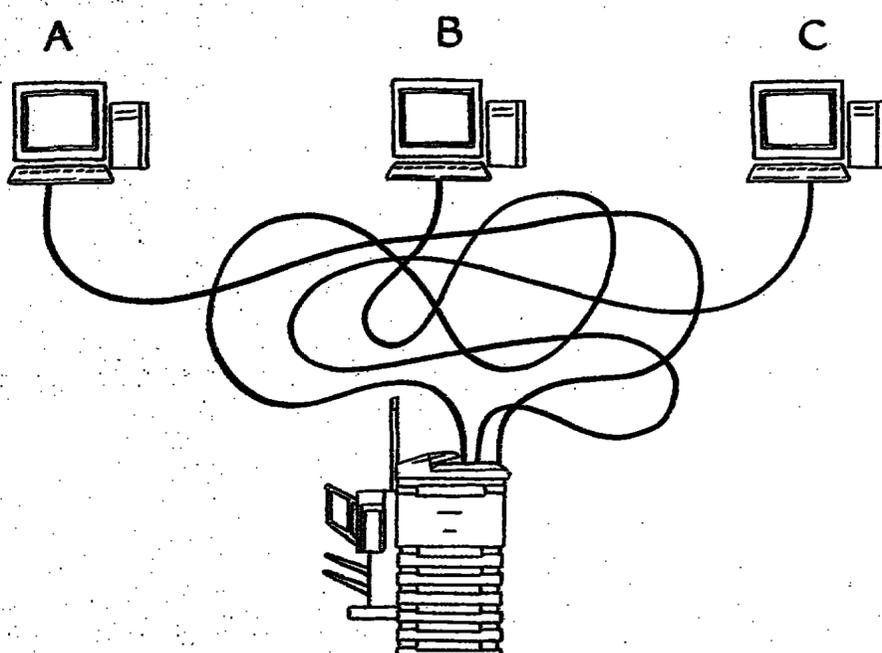
By CARL MORTSHED

MARK NEWMAN, chief executive of Lonrho Africa, painted a glowing picture of the company's future after announcing a 50 per cent fall in profits for the half year due to currency turmoil, recession and climatic disasters.

Mr Newman predicted a good result in the second half, pointing to the benefits of restructuring the core motor dealer businesses, better prospects for the cotton crop in southern Africa and a shake up at John Holt, the Nigerian distribution business.

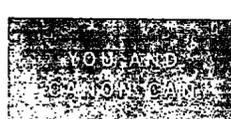
The company is also pursuing opportunities to expand its hotel business in Mozambique, Angola and Nigeria, which will benefit from wage costs in local currencies.

Pre-tax profits before exceptional items fell to £2.6 million from £13.9 million in the six months to March. Adjusting for the benefit of a £48 million capital injection on flotation the pro forma, pre-tax result was £6.8 million. Lonrho Africa is paying an interim dividend of 1p per share after pro forma earnings of 2.1p.



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Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.85	Malta	0.675
Austria Sch	21.54	Netherlands Gld	3.525
Belgium Fr	63.85	New Zealand \$	3.40
Canada \$	6.510	Norway Kr	13.04
Cyprus Cyp£	0.906	Portugal Esc	313.28
Denmark Kr	11.78	S Africa R	0.23
France Fr	6.74	Spain Pta	260.83
Germany Dm	3.10	Sweden Kr	13.77
Greece Dr	329	Switzerland Fr	2.58
Hong Kong \$	13.44	Turkey Lira	429185
Iceland Fl	1.22	USA \$	1.734
Ireland P	0.36		
Israel Sh	2.92		
Italy Lira	3070		
Japan Yen	246.88		

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BT

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK Stock Market Writer of the Year

FTSE tumbles on rumours of Chinese devaluation

AFTER many false dawns, a solution to the fiendish complexities associated with reuniting Ladbroke's Hilton International chain with the US Hilton business appears to be in sight.

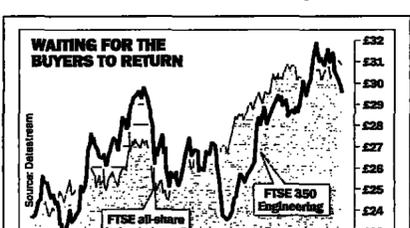


David Goldstone and his son, Lee, the managing director, saw Regalian slip 3p despite an increase in pre-tax profits

Although a deal is some way off, hotel industry sources are convinced that Ladbroke and Hilton Hotels Corporation (HHC) are more or less agreed on the broad structure of a deal. Details are sketchy, but one scenario envisages LHC splitting its hotel and casino interests, with Ladbroke then buying the hotel business for around \$8 billion (£4.9 billion) and selling off the property assets, worth around \$6 billion, to a US real estate investment trust (REIT).

But perhaps an even more compelling suggestion is that Steve Bollenbach, the respected head of HHC, is planning to set up his own REIT into which the hotel assets of both Ladbroke and HHC would then be injected. In turn, Ladbroke, IP lighter at 359p, would become the operator of the Hilton brand worldwide. It is an idea which is gaining traction on Wall Street.

Opening losses on Wall Street, another shaky performance overnight in Asia and heavy selling of the financial future rounded off another anxious day for investors in London that saw share prices close at their lowest point of the day.



Waiting for the buyers to return. FTSE All-Share Index (rebased) and FTSE 350 Engineering from Jun to May.

The FTSE 100 index finished 134.9 down at 5,852.5 as rumours swept the futures pit that China may be forced to devalue. It followed another nervous night of trading in the Far East, where the yen slumped to a low against the dollar.

At least one large block trade was completed with brokers claiming that another large stake may be about to change hands today. Somerfield fell 11p to 361p as one institution sold an 8 per cent stake. Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, is reckoned to have found a home for the 39.7 million shares at the 346p level. Later in the day 26.12 million of them were sold on at 350p.

Meanwhile, the focus of attention was on Cable & Wireless Communications this morning. The price fell 27p to 474.5p as analysts claim that Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, is poised to place Bell Canada's 14.25 per cent stake.

Events in the Far East again hit companies with big inter-

Domestic demand for its Central London homes has enabled Regalian Properties, down 3p at 304p, to offset the drop off in sales to customers from South-East Asia. It emerged as the group, whose chairman and chief executive is David Goldstone, posted a rise in pre-tax profits last year from £4.4 million to £6.7 million. A profits warning left Ideal Hardware 40p off at 235p.

Evidence of a big increase in market share and new-found support from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, lifted Asda 6p to 1914p. The latest AGB-Taylor Nelson survey indicates Asda has increased its share of the food retail market by 10.6 per cent. Tesco, on the other hand, slipped 3p to 540p after shareholders at the annual meeting were told of a slowdown in like-for-like sales.

A bid approach boosted Oriel Group 9 1/2p to 102p. The Oman - National Holding Company wants to make an offer for the remaining shares it does not already own.

Imperial advanced 27 1/2p to 962 1/2p. The group which owns the Chicago Rock Café chain has been talking to various institutions. Druid Group, which along with its rival Diagonal, up 30p at £11.85, applied software programmes supplied by SAP, the German group, tumbled 67p to £11.32 1/2p.

Longs were also encouraged by the news that there will be no more long gilt auctions in the current financial year. In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt rose 0.59p to £110.57 on turnover of 71,000 contracts. The short gilt was £0.30 higher at £104.50 as 2.51 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 soared £1 1/2 to £132 1/2, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was £3 1/2 better at £103.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major indices including New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, and London.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including Ambient Media, Captain Oil Wats, City North Group, Dimension Res Wrs, Do Warrants, Dresdner Broom End, Edelstret Dwg VCT 95, Eskmtur Properties, GRE Red Pri B, Game, Hamleys B, ICM Computer, Imros Alliance, JWE Telecom, James R Knowles, Multi Equip Rental, Pennine Dwg VCT, Quanta, Taiwan IT GDR, Thomson Travel.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including Hrdy Oil Gs n/p (225), Old Eng Pbs n/p (330).

MAJOR CHANGES

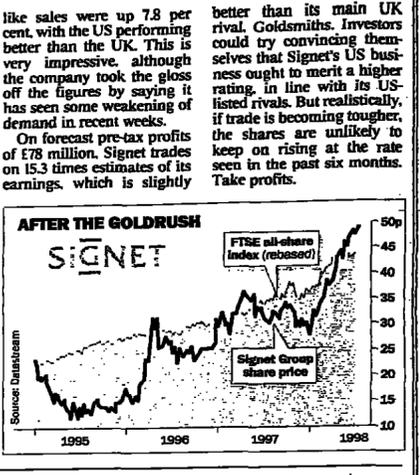
Table of major changes including Rises: Powergreen, Chrysalis, Electocomps, MITE Co, Shire Pharms, PizzExpress; Falls: Iselgard, Steel, British Steel, London Clubs, Smiths Inds, GKN, Cable Wireless, AB Food, Rolls-Royce, TI, Norwich Union, BAT.

TEMPUS American misadventure

ANYONE inclined to believe that psychometric testing is just so much hogwash has plenty of ammunition in the first interim from SHL Group. Floated in October, and with one profit warning already under its belt, SHL's shares were devastated by its hopelessly ambitious plans to build up its US business. After ten years of careful growth while the company was privately owned, as soon as SHL had some outside investors on board it decided to hit the accelerator.

And how. Despite important changes to the way it sold its services to corporate customers, increasing turnover by 150 per cent was deemed a realistic target. The actual improvement of "only" 70 per cent, was consequently an abject failure and threw up a big loss. Peter Saville, the founder who only stood down as chairman 12 days ago, need not

worry: he had the good sense to take £16.7 million cash out at flotation. SHL continues to make encouraging noises about its growth prospects, but the American episode suggests that new chairman Neville Bain needs to instil some realism into the company's management. Its problems in the Asia Pacific look ominous: at the first sign of economic problems, SHL was dropped by one of its biggest Australian clients. The worry is that psychometric testing - demand for which is linked to employers' demand for new staff - is a discretionary item of expenditure and the first to be cut when times are tough. The unrelieved losses in the US will damage earnings more than profits, putting the shares on 14 times this year's forecasts. Dr Bain, who also runs the Post Office, is buying shares, but that should not tempt you.



After the goldrush. SIGNED and FTSE All-Share Index (rebased) from 1995 to 1998.

Signet

IT IS seven years since Gerald Ratner revealed what he really thought of the silverware he was selling - and it has taken most of the intervening time to get the renamed Signet back on track. But after an horrendously complex debt restructuring Signet now looks remarkably like a normal company again, and a successful one to boot. The shares have almost doubled in value this year.

Signet is best-known for owning the two US high street chains of F. Searns and Ernest Jones, but most of its operations are in America. Sterling is the number two player in the US, and it has developed another promising format, the out-of-town Jared superstores. Yesterday's trading statement showed group like-for-like sales were up 7.8 per cent with the US performing better than the UK. This is very impressive, although the company took the gloss off the figures by saying it has seen some weakening of demand in recent weeks. On forecast pre-tax profits of £78 million, Signet trades on 15.3 times estimates of its earnings, which is slightly better than its main UK rival, Goldsmiths. Investors could try convincing themselves that Signet's US business ought to merit a higher rating, in line with its US listed rivals. But realistically, if trade is becoming tougher, the shares are unlikely to keep on rising at the rate seen in the past six months. Take profits.

Johnson Matthey

THE crisis in the semiconductor industry is beginning to be felt in the supplier market. Johnson Matthey's Chippewa Falls laminate packaging plant was to be its great moneyspinner in electronics. Intel had contracted to buy the entire first run and JM was quickly ramping up production to satisfy anticipated demand. JM cannot be blamed for falling victim to a continent-wide financial crisis but it is an interesting lesson in how fast this market moves. JM's original advantage was in producing a novel piece of technology in demand from a dominant supplier. The prospect of high margins seemed secure for up to three years. Then, competition and price deflation would take their toll. Unfortunately, JM looks likely to miss out on some of

the bumper profits, because Intel is already demanding more competitive prices. This is no disaster for JM. Elsewhere, prospects are bright as the company benefits from a good platinum market and high demand for catalytic converters, particularly in the US where emission controls are stringent. The company is also developing an interesting market in pharmaceutical chemicals. JM has an advantage in its high-security plant, necessary for its platinum operation, and regulatory rules require secure facilities to produce certain painkillers that JM would like to manufacture. Nevertheless, until the real impact on the semiconductor industry is understood, it is better to watch and wait. ED&F Man ED&F Man has again proved it can juggle two very distinct businesses in sugar and futures broking, deliver-

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including LIFFE (COFFEE, RUBBER, SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION), ICIS-LOR (CRUDE OILS), GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES, LIFFE WHEAT, LIFFE BARLEY, RUBBER (No 1 RSS C), LIFFE BEANS, BRENT (Oil), LONDON METAL EXCHANGE.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table of life insurance options including various policies and rates.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, Italian Govt Bond, Japanese Govt Bond, Three Mth Sterling, Three Mth Eurodollar, Three Mth Eurodollar, Three Mth Eurodollar, FTSE 100.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates including Base Rate, Discount Rate, Treasury Bills, Prime Bank Bills, Sterling Money Rates, Overnight, Local Authority Depos, Building Society CDs, European Money Deposits.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices including Bullion, Spot, and Platinum.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates including Mkt Rates for June 11, Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin, Frankfurt, Hamburg, London, Milan, New York, Paris, Rome, Stockholm, Tokyo, Vienna, Zurich.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar rates including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Argentina, Australia dollar, Bahraini dinar, Brazil real, Canadian dollar, Czech koruna, Danish krone, Hong Kong dollar, Indian rupee, Indonesian rupiah, Japanese yen, Korean won, Kuwaiti dinar, Malaysian ringgit, New Zealand dollar, Pakistani rupee, Philippine peso, Singapore dollar, S Africa rand, Thai baht, Turkish lira, US Dollar, Barclays Treasury Liquid.

OTHER STERLING

Table of other sterling rates including Argentina peso, Australia dollar, Bahraini dinar, Brazil real, Canadian dollar, Czech koruna, Danish krone, Hong Kong dollar, Indian rupee, Indonesian rupiah, Japanese yen, Korean won, Kuwaiti dinar, Malaysian ringgit, New Zealand dollar, Pakistani rupee, Philippine peso, Singapore dollar, S Africa rand, Thai baht, Turkish lira, US Dollar, Barclays Treasury Liquid.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table of FTSE volumes including various companies and their trading volumes.

Large advertisement for 'Global' and 'Slipped d' with various headlines and graphics.

TURMOIL IN THE EAST: HOW WESTERN NATIONS ARE FEELING THE FALLOUT

Global catastrophe lurks in Asia's crisis

Paul Krugman, the Professor of Economics at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology who added mightily to his international reputation in 1994 by pronouncing the Asian economic miracle a myth, admitted earlier this year that what he thought he saw coming was nothing like the catastrophe that has materialised.

There are two reasons for the mood's sudden turn for the worse: Japan and China. Last autumn, the markets, investors and, of course, the International Monetary Fund and the American administration lived on the hope that Tokyo would act decisively to recapitalise its rotten banking sector and spend billions trying to stimulate economic growth.

Also yesterday, as the yen continued to fall, China's foreign ministry insisted that the yuan would not be devalued but also issued a desperate plea to Tokyo to show the "courage and wisdom" to halt the yen's slide.

Stephen Lewis of Monument Derivatives notes that German banks are heavily committed in Russia and Eastern and Central Europe and that demand from the Far East is contributing significantly to the growth of Western exports and therefore the economic recovery that everybody is banking on to ensure a smooth launch to the single currency.

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Calamity has reverberated far beyond the region

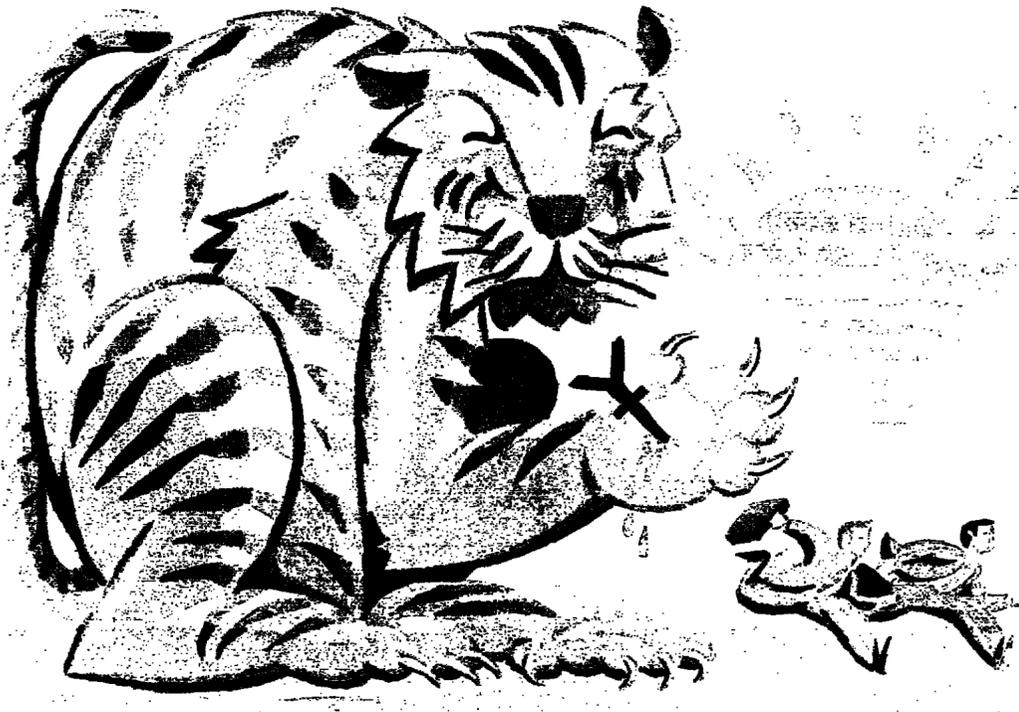
For the massed ranks of Japanese football supporters who have made the journey to watch their country's first visit to the World Cup finals, it seems to be a case of "Crisis what crisis?"

For Britain, this has meant a sharp drop in tourist revenue. The British Tourist Authority is forecasting an overall 5 per cent fall in visitors from the region, reversing phenomenal growth over the past decade.

SOCIAL IMPACT

Unemployment is soaring in a region that once took high employment levels for granted and has little in the way of a social security safety net. Currency devaluations have resulted in a huge jump in inflation rates in many countries, eroding income levels.

Some 24,000 students arrive from South-East Asia to study at British universities each year, providing fee income worth nearly £300 million. British universities have been forced to provide scholarships for 3,000 students from the worst-hit countries to ensure they can complete their degrees.



Inward investment and exporters suffer as industry faces squeeze

For British business and industry, the effect of the Asian financial crisis is only just beginning. British companies have been caught in a three-way squeeze by the turmoil in the region.

Scotland and Wales have been hardest hit by a string of cancelled ventures, but no British location has escaped unscathed. Mitsubishi, the Japanese electronics company, has shut a television factory in East Lothian with the loss of 500 jobs.

the coat manufacturer, announced last month it would shut two factories with the loss of about 250 jobs after a sharp fall in Asian sales. Drinks companies, such as Diageo, have all revealed disappointing performances in foreign markets.

already faced problems over its 25-year Jakarta water management contract, which was part of a joint venture with Kati, a company owned by Sigit Harjojudanto, Suharto's eldest son. Thames insists that the contract, which will bring in about £25 million in revenues, is still operative but the pressure on the new Indonesian Government to unravel Suharto's web of business interests could still lead to problems.

Fund has also made liberalisation of ownership laws a requirement for countries receiving aid, making it easier for foreign companies to gain a toe-hold in regional markets.

In Indonesia, a number of attractive, state-owned assets are shortly to be placed on the auction block including PT Telekom, the long-distance telecoms monopoly, and Indosat, the satellite operator. Some British companies have already taken advantage of the new environment including Tesco, which is buying a controlling stake in Thailand's Lotus hypermarket group for about £200 million.

Slipped dish

ALL this legal squabbling over the services of Stephen Grabiner has clearly left the poor man feeling dazed and confused. Having spent months fighting Lord Hollick to be free of his contract at United News & Media,

broker, this week. After extolling the virtues of the BDB joint venture between Granada and Carlton Communications, he stunned an audience of City bigwigs and media moguls by urging everyone there to go out and buy a dish.



veal that Peel had been thinking about buying some of the 30 or so Thistle rejects put up for sale a few weeks ago, a move that could cost the group some £70 million.

sock horror I CAN'T contain my excitement at the prospect of attending the annual conference of The Richmond Group - a consortium of management consultants, no less - which is due to take place in a couple of weeks' time.

business life collared by one Terry Kelley. I further discovered that Kelley is a former information technology guru at Wicks, the DIY group that nearly went broke in circumstances that have interested the Serious Fraud Office.

Peel's deal

ANOTHER person left dazed by recent events has been Robert Peel. Having been ousted from Thistle Hotels - which he had guided for as long as anyone can remember - with a £700,000 pay off in November, he has had a spectacular

three months on AIM with his new vehicle, Peel Hotels. Peel has been talking a good game, saying the group will grow rapidly. But so far it owns just one hotel, the universally famous Bull at Peterborough. However I can re-

veal that Peel had been thinking about buying some of the 30 or so Thistle rejects put up for sale a few weeks ago, a move that could cost the group some £70 million.

But the whole exercise is academic while Thistle pores over the approaches it has received, though Peel will be hoping whoever buys Thistle decides to revive the sale process. That is if anybody actually puts in a bid.

There has been an attack of absent mindedness at Selfridges & Co, as the posh store insists on calling itself. A moody blue mailshot for its new store card (that absolute must) promises every sort of lifestyle-enhancing service but fails to mention a rather important fact - the annual percentage rate. This contravenes the Consumer Credit Act (Advertisements) regulations. Those itching to acquire the

Wall St fire sales prompt feeding frenzy

AMERICA

When Asia's economies collapsed last summer, the reaction in US boardrooms was predictably uniform. From the industrial heartland to Wall Street, executives prepared themselves for one of the biggest fire sales in history.

Jack Welch, the legendary chairman of GE, was the first cheerleader. America's biggest company would spend \$40 billion (£25 billion) on acquisitions in Asia over the next four years, he promised. GE Capital, the finance division, began with the \$600 million takeover of Toho Mutual Life Insurance. He said: "The path to greatness in Asia is irreversible and GE will be there."

Even US companies not interested in takeovers are plunging money into Asian operations. DuPont, the biggest US chemicals company, is spending \$1 billion on buying cheap properties and competitors' plants before they have recovered. Charles Holliday, the chief executive, said: "We call that Dragon finance."



"I didn't realise Gordon Brown's sell-offs had gone that far"

Stephen Grabiner extolled the joys of satellites

Equities close on a low

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of equity prices categorized by sector: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS - FOOD, RETAILERS - GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TRANSPORT, WATER.

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Table of equity prices categorized by sector: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS - FOOD, RETAILERS - GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TRANSPORT, WATER.

Macdonald to develop leisure arm. Macdonald Hotels is to develop a leisure arm under the existing brand. The company has been launched at House Hotel near Edinburgh and will be used on all club's attached share companies. In the near future, it is expected to have a 22 per cent share in the dividend of 15p per share, 5p up to 10p per share.

Casuals claim. Austin Road, the country's largest car hire company, has added its share to the list of companies to be included in the Casuals claim. The company's shares have risen since the claim was announced in January, and it is expected to receive an increase in its share price.

CFS deal. CFS Group, the financial services company, has announced a deal with the Government to provide financial services to the public. The deal is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

Property plan. Property plan, the real estate company, has announced a plan to expand its operations in the UK. The plan is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS. Table of equity prices for telecommunications companies.

TRANSPORT. Table of equity prices for transport companies.

WATER. Table of equity prices for water companies.

RETAILERS - FOOD. Table of equity prices for food retailers.

RETAILERS - GENERAL. Table of equity prices for general retailers.

BRITISH FUNDS. Table of equity prices for British funds.

SHORTS (under 5 years). Table of equity prices for short-term investments.

LONGS (over 15 years). Table of equity prices for long-term investments.

UNLISTED. Table of equity prices for unlisted companies.

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation at. Table of equity prices for index-linked investments.

RETAILERS - GENERAL. Table of equity prices for general retailers.

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET. Table of equity prices for alternative investment market.

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Intro The. Advertisement for a new product or service.

Macdonald to develop leisure arm

Macdonald Hotels is to develop a leisure club arm under the Pelican Leisure brand. The concept has been launched at Houston House Hotel near Edinburgh and will eventually be used on all 17 leisure clubs attached to the group's hotels and time-share complexes.

In the year to March 29 it lifted pre-tax profits by 21 per cent to £11.1 million and earnings per share by 22 per cent to 14.7p. A final dividend of 3.35p makes a 5p total, up 11 per cent.

Casuals claim

Austin Reed, the menswear retailer that owns the Country Casuals chain, added its voice to the chorus of claims that the consumer downturn has begun. The company said sales had risen just 1.5 per cent since the end of the company's financial year in January, compared with an increase in turnover last year of 5.7 per cent.

CFS deal

CFS Group, the software and administration support company, is to double in size with the purchase of America's Leasetek, a provider of lease administration and accounting software applications for the financial sector, for \$16.25 million (£10 million).

Ideal warning

Shares in Ideal Hardware fell 30p to 245p after the computer products distributor gave warning that third-quarter trading was "significantly below" the same period last year. However, David Wickes, managing director, said he expected full-year results to match expectations.

Property plan

Benchmark Group, a shell property company with a market worth of only £3 million is planning to raise £49.1 million to fund acquisitions in London's West End.

Watchdog fines United Assurance arm £80,000

By Gavin Lumsden

IMRO, the investment management watchdog, has fined the unit trust arm of United Assurance £80,000 for taking £200,000 of unauthorised fees from three of its funds. It has ordered the firm to return the money and pay £22,161 in costs.

The manager, a former subsidiary of the United Friendly insurance company, took the money from its European, North American and Far Eastern unit trusts between October 1994 and December 1996, just as the parent company began its merger with the rival insurer Refuge Assurance.

Up to 2,775 investors are registered holders of the three funds which hold £164 million. However, the number of investors affected is likely to be far higher as United, which has three million policyholders, is believed to hold stakes in the funds.

In addition, a number of discretionary fund managers hold investments in the funds on behalf of clients.

Bryan Blakeman, marketing manager of United Friend-

ly Unit Trust Managers, said the problems started after the company negotiated a new all-in annual fee with PDFM, the top City investment house, to whom United had outsourced the funds' management.

Mr Blakeman said PDFM had mistakenly invoiced United for overseas administration costs incurred by the trusts. Nevertheless, it had passed the bills to the trustee, Bankers' Trust, who paid PDFM. PDFM's contract with United was terminated in December 1996.

A spokeswoman for the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation said the breach had been picked up in a monitoring visit to the fund manager in June 1996. There had been no dispute over the penalty but the investigation into the offence had been time consuming, she said.

The fine to its investment business is a setback for United Assurance which is struggling to go upmarket and reduce its reliance of selling small-premium insurance to low-income groups.

Property sales boom lifts Regalian by 50%

By Richard Miles

A BUOYANT property market in Central London helped lift profits at Regalian Properties by more than 50 per cent to £6.71 million.

Turnover for the year ending March 31 jumped 30 per cent to £58 million as Regalian sought income outside its core residential development, largely from commercial and residential rents.

However, residential development was by far the

biggest contributor, with £56 million.

Improved demand for office space in the capital, with rising rental values, enabled a valuation of £49 million for Regalian's Bishopsbridge Paddington site.

Payment of the final dividend of 0.775p will be deferred until April 1999 because of Budget changes, saving £318,000. The total dividend will be 1.25p, up 20 per cent.



Foundations laid: Derek Watson, Sterling finance director, and Simone Kessler

Sterling pays out dividend

STERLING Publishing, publisher of *Debut's Peerage*, is to pay its first dividend for three years despite a £3.8 million pre-tax loss in the year to end March after a £2.6 million pre-tax profit for the previous year.

The loss was caused by a £6.5 million exceptional charge. The intended dividend is 0.33p, to be paid out of adjusted earnings of 2.5p, down from a previous 3.29p.

Simone Kessler, chief executive, and the board said: "We have laid the foundations for further progress."

ED&F Man boosted by financial services

By Richard Miles

ED&F MAN, the sugar-to-futures broker, shrugged off difficulties in its agricultural products business to report a 16 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits to £97.6 million.

Strong growth in financial services helped to offset declining profits in the sugar and molasses and alcohol businesses. The cocoa business also prospered after the sale of its processing facilities at a profit of £21.5 million.

The brokerage arm fared best, with profits up 56 per cent to £17.6 million, reflecting active trading on the world's markets. Asset management did well too, as funds under control increased 62 per cent to \$2.4 billion (£1.47 billion).

ED&F Man said it would pay a final dividend of 8p on September 4, taking the total to 11.7p, up 9.3 per cent.

Tempus, page 32

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Tesco sales growth banishes rumours

TESCO, the leading supermarket group, scotched rumours that it had been hit by very poor trading yesterday when it told the annual meeting that like-for-like sales are running at 4.8 per cent up, compared with the 5 per cent last reported.

Monthly figures out in the market from AGB-Taylor Nelson showed that both Tesco and Asda continued to enjoy market share growth in May, with an implied sales growth at Asda last month in double figures. The figures helped propel Asda shares higher. The figures also show that Safeway, which has recently launched a big campaign of extra points on its ABC loyalty card, has reversed its slow sales growth trend. Its implied year-on-year sales growth last month is 7.9 per cent (from 2.4 per cent the month before) with its market share apparently growing from 9.7 to 10 per cent. The AGB survey excludes clothing and petrol.

Pubs portfolio expands

PUBMASTER, the former Brent Walker subsidiary, has made its second acquisition in less than a month, Midlands-based Mercury Taverns for just over £35 million. Regional brewers Wolverhampton & Dudley and Marston's each own a third of Mercury with the rest held by management. Marston's said net proceeds would be £2 million. The deal, which brings Pubmaster 141 pubs, follows the purchase of 54 from the Devonshire Pub Company for about £15 million. Pubmaster, acquired in 1996, has expanded to 1,600 pubs.

Profits up at W S Atkins

WS ATKINS, the engineering consultant, raised pre-tax profits from £24.9 million to £29 million in the year to March 31 on sales up from £328 million to £365 million. Earnings per share rose from 15.6p to 19.5p out of which the total dividend rises from 6.9p to 8.1p after payment of a 5.40p final. Dr Alan Rudge, chairman, said: "Based upon the group's sound record to date, I am confident that W S Atkins is well placed to deliver the performance its customers and shareholders expect." The shares rose 3p to 53½p.

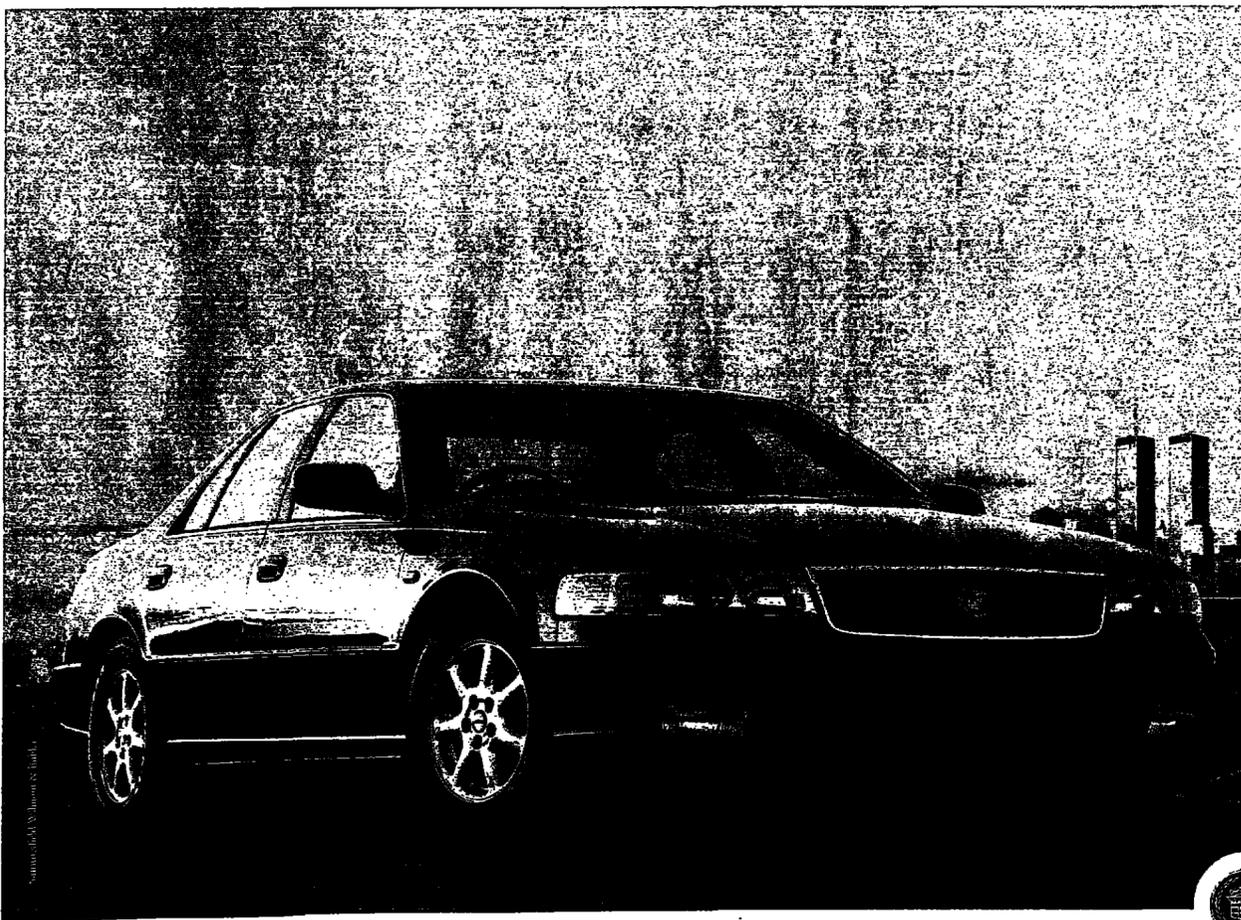
Comino shows 37% rise

COMINO, the technology and software group, raised pre-tax profits by 37 per cent to £1.95 million in the year to end March on sales up 68 per cent to £13.1 million. The shares rose 7p to 265½p. Earnings rose 8 per cent to 12.53p and the final dividend rises 11 per cent to 2.50p. The AIM-listed company expects to pay an interim dividend for the current year. Comino said: "The group is likely to promote the use of its Workflow technology by acquiring companies whose products serve large numbers of the public."

British Biotech

STANDARD LIFE is understood to have been the British Biotech shareholder that earlier this week sold and repurchased its 12.46 million shares in the drug development company in a "bed and breakfast" tax-planning transaction. The *Times* wrongly suggested on Tuesday that a large shareholder had "baled out" of the troubled company by selling the 1.9 per cent stake at 42p, which was then a substantial discount to the market price. British Biotech's shares yesterday fell another 2½p to 40p.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, share price, and other financial metrics. Includes sections for various fund categories like Equity, Bond, and Income.

Queue jumping? We'd rather call it thinking ahead. SAS TravelPass advertisement with contact information and benefits.

My n... Britten's advertisement featuring a cartoon illustration of a woman and text about a service or product.



DANCE
Sweden
revives past
splendours
PAGE 38

THE TIMES ARTS

POP
Hottest
veteran in
New Orleans
PAGE 39



Say what you will about the wicked British press, but we do usually manage to get the date at the top of the page correct. For example, today is indisputably Friday June 12. Which by my rusty old reckoning is precisely 42 days after May 1.

So what? Well, I may be mistaken — it all happened so long ago — but wasn't May 1 the date set for Sir Richard Eyre to deliver his report on the future of opera and ballet in London, a report upon which millions of pounds, hundreds of jobs, and the fate of three famous performing companies depend? Yes, I do believe it was. That makes his report, let me see, six weeks overdue? To put it another way, haven't eight months elapsed since Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, asked the former National Theatre boss to examine the plight of Covent Garden and the Coliseum as a matter of urgency? Gosh, thank goodness he didn't tell Eyre to take his time.

It's a touch ironic, don't you think? After all, politicians and civil servants spent most of last year castigating Covent Garden

Forget the fat lady, where's the Eyre?

for being grossly inefficient. The words "pot" and "kettle" now spring to uncharitable minds, of which there are plenty in the opera world. Only last week, for instance, when the report was allegedly all but signed and sealed, English National Opera was still getting calls from an Eyre minion requesting basic information about staffing and finances.

Eyre has a living to earn, of course. It couldn't have been easy to write an objective report about Covent Garden while simultaneously reviving your own Covent Garden production of *La traviata*. Then there was his trip to New York in April to stage Hare's *The Judas Kiss*. More valuable writing time lost. Still, he did assure *The Times* on Monday that he was delivering his long-awaited opus "tonight". I hope he also remembered to take a note from his mum confirming that the dog had eaten his homework.



RICHARD MORRISON

Anyway, the Machiavellians among us find this delay very suspicious. The theory is that Smith is delighted for Eyre to take his time, and that the beleaguered Culture Secretary will now drag the process out even further, perhaps finally slipping the report into the public domain unnoticed on the afternoon that England play in the quarter-final of the World Cup (God, and Tunisia, willing).

That's plausible. Smith has had a torrid few weeks. He has been lampooned by book reviewers for his hilarious tome, *Creative Nation*; frotholished by the preposterous but quotable Gerald Kaufman for being obsessed with trivia (pot? kettle? you said it); shaken by open rebellion at the Arts Council; and unanimously tipped by political pundits as a dead cert for the old heave-ho in Tony Blair's imminent Cabinet reshuffle.

Clinging by his fingertips to his job, the Culture Secretary needs a

new "Rumpus at the Garden" story like he needs mumps. He must be tempted to sit on Eyre's report and hope that the money problems of the capital's opera and ballet companies simply go away. They won't, of course. What will happen — what is already happen-

ing — is that the options for change narrow with each week of procrastination. Back in November, when Smith commissioned Eyre to write the report, and suggested a merger between ENO and the Royal Opera to add a frisson of daring, he held all the aces. Covent Garden was days from bankruptcy; its board on the verge of mass resignation. ENO had no managing director. If Smith had acted decisively then — demanding a single big-opera company at Covent Garden and a smaller, "Baroque and contemporary" ensemble at Sadler's Wells — he could not have been denied.

Instead, he stalled for time by bringing in Eyre. That gave Covent Garden's management a chance to regroup. It now has a heavyweight chairman, Sir Colin Southgate, who threatens to walk if he doesn't like what Eyre or Smith suggest. It has new opera and ballet boards in place. Most

importantly, it is now just 18 months away from reopening the redeveloped Royal Opera House. Stars for that first season will have been hired, bouquets and banquets booked. The status quo at the Garden has been, quite literally, set in stone.

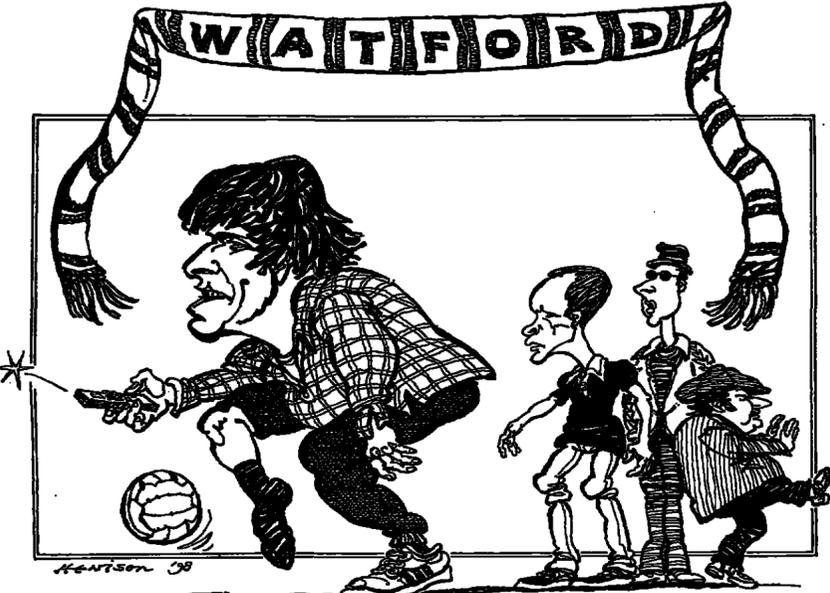
Down the road, meanwhile, ENO's managers have cranked up a feisty public-relations campaign to support their claim to residence in perpetuity at the Coliseum. I doff my hat to their fighting spirit, even though I believe that, like the Light Brigade, they are charging down the wrong valley. By ENO's own calculations the Coliseum will crumble within ten years unless an eight-figure sum is spent on it. Where will that money come from? Not the lottery any more. For ENO, preserving the status quo means signing its own death warrant. Yet it has brilliantly managed to swing public opinion behind this very notion.

I am sure that Eyre's report, when finally published, will elucidate every conceivable option in exquisite detail. But what will be his bottom line? Will he recommend a radical blueprint that finally frees lyric theatre in London from its decades of insecurity, crisis and squabble?

Regrettably, I don't think he will offer a "bottom line" recommendation at all. He will merely point out various alternative ways forward. Smith will reject some (rebuilding the Coliseum, or financing both companies to continental levels) because they would require a massive increase in subsidy. He will reject others (privatisation or various degrees of merger) because he hasn't got the political clout to fight the unions and other vested interests.

So he will end up doing very little. Operatic life will drift on in the same old muddle. I shall be writing "Rumpus at the Garden" pieces until I am 65, or my wife shoots me, whichever is sooner. A pity. I thought Smith had come to praise the arts, not to bury them.

My night with Reg



Brian Conley (Bill), Will Keen (Dan), Will Barton (Shaun) and David Nellist (Tim) in *Elton John's Glasses*

Here's a tip for some resourceful fan currently in France to see England beat Romania, Colombia or, conceivably, Tunisia. Wear glasses, pick a spot where the sun will hit you and, when Le Saux crosses to Shearer, dazzle the goalie. According to David Farr's sprightly comedy, this was what caused Watford to lose the FA Cup Final in 1984. Goalkeeper Sherwood grabbed at the ball, only to be thwarted by the light from his own chairman's famous specs. Thus did Elton John lose his beloved Hornets the Cup.

This might not seem a matter of life and death, but Farr's protagonist, Brian Conley's Bill, would agree with Bill Shankly that football is more important than either. It is 1996, and he sits in a near-furnitureless room ("Candhi would have found it desolate in 'ere") madly re-watching that killer goal on the video. Outside, the Vicarage Road crowd is roaring on a Watford now threatened with relegation, but Bill is so obsessed with the cataclysmic past he barely notices. He has become

THEATRE *Elton John's Glasses* Queen's

an agoraphobe who doesn't go north of Watford, south of Watford, or anywhere.

Conley, with his lugubriously quacking voice and deep-pile stubble, might be a blend of Tony Hancock and Fred Flintstone. Neither he nor Farr's dialogue falter, but the plot is harder on the gullet than those even of the old Rix laugh-ins. You have to swallow jokey happenings that lack the logic good farce needs. Why nervously hide people in the bathroom when their presence in the house is innocent and their discovery would cause no real embarrassment? There are improbabilities, too. Bill's brother Dan appears with the remnants of Goldilox, the unsuccessful band he has formed, and turns out to have had an affair in distant Tenby with Julie, Bill's part-time lover. At the same

time a 16-year-old girl in a Watford strip appears at the door, lures the hermit outdoors for a kickabout, and turns out to be Julie's daughter. But one accepts outrageous coincidences in farce if they bring fun in their wake: which these do.

Ignore Farr's cursory attempts to deepen the play by suggesting that Conley's Bill and Will Keen's Dan are brothers in rivalry and failure as well as blood. Relish a gift for comic observation that extends to all members of Terry Johnson's cast. One band member (David Nellist) wears Elton-style specs, which so upsets Bill that the poor man is forced to remove them and bang about like a bat bereft of its radar.

Another (Will Barton) decides he caused his colleagues' ill-fortune and, wailing "the world would be a better place without me", fails to hang himself with Bill's tacky curtains. Football lover or football hater, you should laugh a lot.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Baroque bounty

WHEN Nikolaus Harmoncourt formed his Vienna Concentus Musicus in 1953, they spent four years preparing together before their first concert. Today Harmoncourt and his ensemble have retained their freshness and idiosyncrasy. Nothing could be further from the saccharine approach to Mozart that still obtains in many quarters than the playing heard in two of that composer's symphonies in Wednesday night's concert at the Barbican.

The G Minor Symphony K183 admittedly demands

CONCERT

more overtly dramatic treatment to start with. But there was little to prepare one for the explosive attack that launched Harmoncourt's account of the work. The psychic energy of the first movement was projected uncompromisingly, while the muted string sonorities of the Andante were realised with delicacy.

Mozart's *Jupiter Symphony*, by contrast, is normally delivered in celebratory mood. Harmoncourt soon made it clear that he was pursuing a different agenda. The opening flourishes were followed by far more than the written two-and-a-half beats rest, disrupting the regularity of the four-bar phrases. Gut strings gouged deep, sculpting paragraphs that stood out from their neighbours.

To three of Cleopatra's arias from Handel's *Giulio Cesare*, Harmoncourt and the Concentus Musicus brought a similarly characterised sense of style. Sadly the vocal line was assigned to Sylvia McNair, a crowd-pleasing soprano, seductive of tone but blissfully ignorant of the niceties of Baroque style.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Britten's coming home

MIXED omens attended the start of the fifty-first Aldeburgh Festival, with the Suffolk town suffering a nightmare of floods and a power cut hours before the curtain went up on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In most other respects, however, the occasion was highly auspicious: most of all because it reflects the new management's determination to restore Britten's operas to a central place in the festival.

Wednesday's first night was special because it returned *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to the tiny Jubilee Hall where it was premiered in 1960. Little about the stage has changed since then: this performance by postgraduate students of the Britten-Pears School gives Britten's chamber opera an intimacy hard to achieve anywhere else.

ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL

So the high-class village hall atmosphere of James Robert Carson's production is very fitting. It has some stylised movement and light humour all of its own, and it is appropriately English in its gentle handling of the story's criticism. But it loses its way at the end, where the presentation of the rusics' play as a send-up of amateur theatricals becomes tiresome.

Some of the most magical effects are achieved through George Souglides's designs and Giuseppe di Iorio's lighting. The moonlit wood is represented by a bare, uprooted tree. Just as Britten's score characterises each of the three strata, costumes differentiate them too: the fairies wear

Victorian dress, the lovers modern clothes, and the rusics are a group of anoraks.

The first of two casts, featuring a big contingent of young North American singers, makes a well-integrated ensemble. Heather Buck is a spirited, alluring Tyrania, whose real presence shows up the weakness of William Towers's hoopy Oberon. The lovers are an evenly balanced quartet, though the glinting mezzo of Cynthia Thea's Hermia and Sung Chung's Demetrius stand out. Timothy Murfin brings focused singing to Bottom, and Peter Grant is amusing as the slow-witted Snug. The Britten-Pears Orchestra plays well under Michael Rosewell without capturing all the score's scintillating enchantment.

JOHN ALLISON

Sublime in the ridiculous

Rodney Milnes sees the Royal Opera triumph in one of the world's ugliest opera houses

I do not know if the German language has an equivalent for "white elephant", but it soon may have to find one. Baden-Baden's new Festspielhaus, scene of a sort of "running" festival from April to September, has already attracted adverse comment in the German press for its unfocused, star-orientated, middle-of-the-road programme and its labyrinthine financial arrangements.

The general idea is to rival Salzburg, with Salzburg ticket prices — up to £200 a throw. There are big names on the programme — Brendel, Gergiev, Giulini, Barenboim, Bartoli, Jessye Norman — and "residences", the first taken up from last weekend by our own homeless Royal Opera.

It appears that the concert hall-cum-opera house was built (cheaply, at about £40m) with public money but is administered privately: deficits will be picked up by the state of Baden-Württemberg and the sleepy little town of Baden-Baden (population 55,000), significantly enough the setting for Dostoevsky's — and Prokofiev's — *The Gam-*



Listen up: the Royal Opera's *I masnadieri* at the Festspielhaus, Baden-Baden, is on Radio 3 tomorrow

bler. The town gave the foundation the building site, and will be able to "buy back" their theatre for a snip (£10m) in 20 years' time.

What nobody seems to have thought about is who on earth is going to fill the 2,500-seat auditorium half the year round at these prices. The Royal Opera's performances of *Die ägyptische Helena* and *I masnadieri* were embarrassingly well full, and not even the name Plácido Domingo, admittedly as conductor rather than tenor, could fill the house for *La traviata*. The only laugh in the weekend was the programme book inadvertently publishing Domingo's birth date, which in operatic circles is the equivalent of a sin against the Holy Ghost.

The auditorium is quite astonishingly ugly, a box lined with chipboard in a peculiarly revolting shade of timbersalmon pink, with facilities for the disabled a permanent hazard for those who aren't (yet). A series of recording false prosceniums makes the stage look smaller and further away than it actually is. But the acoustics are superb. The concert

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POP Shirley Basseby Festival Hall

than-life persona, the key to Basseby's enduring appeal remains her magnificent voice. Backed by a 22-piece orchestra...

STEPHEN DALTON



The Royal Swedish Ballet in Börlin's 1922 Skating Rink, "one of the most enthralling ballets of the 20th century"

King of modernity

For five glorious years in the 1920s an unlikely group of Swedes living in Paris created some of the most exciting and adventurous ballets the world had ever seen...

DANCE: Debra Craine on the long-dead Swedish choreographer who could still set the world on fire

used designs, drawings, photographs, musical scores, published memoirs, contemporary reviews and even some interviews to piece together their reconstructions...

The biggest step yet to reclaim the Ballets Suédois

New York, where he encounters a carnival of silent movie icons in the streets of Manhattan...

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts entertainment compiled by Mark Hargreaves



Dawn Upshaw visits the Aldeburgh Festival

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and features indicated with the symbol (C) on release across the country

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THE UNEXPECTED MAN: Absorbingly expressive FSC production of Yasmina Reza's two-handers...

ALDEBURGH: The American soprano Dawn Upshaw visits the Aldeburgh Festival...

AS YOU LIKE IT: Anastasia Hite plays Rosalind in the opening production of the New Elizabethan Theatre's 1998 season...

CURRENT

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GLYNDEBOURNE: Jean-Marie Vander directs a new production of Wagner's powerful Ring cycle...

THE UNEXPECTED MAN: Absorbingly expressive FSC production of Yasmina Reza's two-handers...

AS YOU LIKE IT: Anastasia Hite plays Rosalind in the opening production of the New Elizabethan Theatre's 1998 season...

NEW RELEASES

THE APOSTLE (12): Evocative portrait of a former Pentecostal preacher, memorably portrayed by Robert Downey Jr...

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POP INTERVIEW Nottingham's wonders

ARTS

POP ALBUMS Dublin's Devlins

Heaven is indeed a place on Earth — Nottingham, in fact, the home of Six by Seven, Britain's most, er, most band

They've got blisters on their fingers

Chris Olley, the gangly lead singer with Six by Seven, goes all misty-like. "It's what you always dream of, really, that moment where you musically take off your glasses and shake your hair loose and someone goes, 'But Miss Jones, you're beautiful!'"

hears 200-odd sessions a year. "I've got people ringing me from all over Broadcasting House — they loved it." And Peel is so blown away by you that he rearranges his entire show for you to play more.



CAITLIN MORAN

There is a dream that every late-night Radio 1 listener has. You form a band, and from your first chord you're obviously a bit different from the grubby bread and butter of Cast, say, or Shed Seven.

They set up hideous grooves that unsettle every cell; a furnace of almost unbearable anxiety and fury, so that when the songs are occasionally given the oxygen of space, the whole thing flares up like a backdraft, and a wall of white, bright melody blinds you utterly.

"Yeah, I've had panic attacks," Olley admits. "They ain't fun. You think your heart's going to stop and the lights are going out. But I think death comes as a friend, like a Mafia hit. Suddenly it's there, and you think, 'No, no — it wasn't supposed to happen like this!'"



Cosmic wavelength: Six by Seven are the first band worthy of inheriting Radiohead's crown. Their music "expands terrifyingly, like a dying star eating the universe"

Down at the Doctor's

DR JOHN Anutha Zone (Parlophone 7243 4 95490 £15.99) DR JOHN is not the first middle-aged musician whose record company boss has hit on the idea of arresting a commercial decline by encouraging his client to associate with the pop heroes of a younger generation.

Indeed, if there is one thing that this album confirms, it is the way in which 1990s popular music routinely transcends boundaries of age, genre and geography. Dr John, who began his chequered career in the 1950s, is a man steeped in the Creole music and voodoo folklore of the American South.

Small wonder then if the contributions of the British musicians, recorded earlier this year at Abbey Road, tend to sound overly respectful and Dr John is not exactly roused by their efforts to the dizzy heights that he scaled on such 1970s albums as Gumbo and In The Right Place.

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

POP ALBUMS

frison from hearing the great man accompanied by Weller and most of his band on both Party Hellfire and an unusually sensitive version of John Martyn's I Don't Wanna Know, while Spiritualized and their friends, the London Community Gospel Choir, help him to conjure a darker, if rather more laboured, mood on Hello God and John Gris.

THE DEVLINS Waiting (RU/Universal UND 53102 £15.99) WITH POP currently going through a fallow period in its creative cycle, it is a good time for bands trading on traditional songwriting values and a staunchly conservative performing style; hence all the excitement about Embrace and, to a lesser extent, Unbelievable Truth.

As if on cue, the Devlins, a guitar trio led by the Dublin brothers from Dublin, arrive with their second album, Waiting, a collection of exquisitely crafted melodic rock songs that tread a fine line between the manicured pop of Del Amitri and the misty-eyed Celtic soul of Mike Scott.

Colin Devlin has a voice that combines various shades of fraught emotion with unwavering sincerity, enough to prompt suspicions of latent Bono-ism when he sings such overwrought lines as "Lay your hands upon me/Lay my head down low/Take the sickness from me..."

But the clean, meticulous precision of the arrangements is enough to dispel any suggestion of bombast, and with songs ranging from the chiming optimism of Heaven's Wall to the moody World Outside, this album is an unusual combination of traditional elegance and youthful brio.

NEIL FINN Try Whistling This (Parlophone 7243 4 95139 £15.99) ALTHOUGH hardly a solo album good enough to excuse him for breaking up Crowded House, Try Whistling This does find Neil Finn making a determined effort to explore

musical possibilities that were beyond his reach when he was restricted to the role of songsmith in a conventional band.

The most striking track is a better called Loose Tongue, one of several numbers that are actually quite difficult to whistle, and one which, along with King Tide and Twisty Bass, reflects a new, harsher world-view in Finn's lyrics: "A good man has been hung/ Because of my loose tongue".

But while the use of drum loops, occasional scratchy sound effects and generally minimalist accompaniments may have freed up Finn's imagination, there are too many tracks such as Faster Than Light, Truth and Admitted which sound little better than demos.

BRAN VAN 3000 Glee (Audiogram/Capitol 7243 8 23604 £12.99) THE Montreal-based collective Bran Van 3000 is the brainchild of Canadian filmmaker, DJ and rapper Jamie "Bran Man" Di Salvo, an eccentric dabbler whose tastes embrace "trip-hop, hip-hop and ZZ Top".

Their debut album, Glee, is a bizarre and entrancing collage of rap vocalese, girl-pop, dance, soul and rock, a mixture best exemplified by the droll single Drinking in L.A.

DAVID SINCLAIR

From the Alps to the Delta

BLUES ALBUMS

their recordings are being reassessed. Take Dock Boggs, a white coalminer from Virginia who cut a handful of blues tracks in the 1920s which rival in intensity and passion any of his contemporary blues singers and are said to have influenced the young Bob Dylan. County Blues: The

Complete Early Recordings 1927-1929 (Revenant 205) includes alternative takes and four tracks on which he is an accompanist.

The links between country and blues were growing more tenuous by the 1960s. All of the tracks on Music City Soul (Kent CDKEND 157) were cut

by black performers in the capital of country music, Nashville, between 1964 and 1973. Yet this is not country blues or country soul. Instead, artists such as Gene Allison, Freddie Waters, Herbert Hunter and Peggy Gaines were aping the uptown soul stylings of Northern cities such as Detroit and New York. That is not to say the music is not good — it is intriguing, danceable and well produced without taking any of the country flavour that other soul stars such as Joe Tex and Solomon Burke incorporated into their recordings.

JOHN CLARKE

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STEVEN KOWALCZYK Moods and Grooves (Atlantic 52817-2) ON ITS American release, this debut album by Steven Kowalczyk went straight into the national jazz chart, and its availability here is timed to coincide with the Massachusetts-born singer/songwriter's participation next week in London's Festival of Voice at the Pizza Express.

self-penned. They range from dry social observations set to nearly bustling backing, through wry self-assessment songs, to soaring romantic ballads in which the jazz and pop elements are mixed with sufficient skill to attract admirers from each camp without alienating either.

JAZZ ALBUMS trivedly hip, combining the improvisational imagination and rhythmic flexibility of jazz with the emotional appeal of pop. If he comes over half as well live, he could be big.

ODYSSEY THE BAND Reunion (Knitting Factory Records KFR 220) WITH a unique guitar sound — a peculiarly attractive, ring-

ing clang — and a voice that resembles Family's Roger Chapman filtered through John Lee Hooker, James "Blood" Ulmer is one of jazz's genuine originals. In his spreading of Ornette Coleman's theory of "harmolodics", he has been called the Malcolm X to the saxophonist's Elijah Muhammad, and this album by his re-formed trio Odyssey — completed by violinist Charlie Burnham and drummer Warren Benbrow — is democratic

CHRIS PARKER

A slipping Standard? Call for Archer

London's only evening paper has lost touch with its audience, says Gerald Isaaman

When your newspaper is having circulation problems, who better to lift the flagging figures than the impish Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare? That, at any rate, seems to be the thinking of the *Evening Standard*. Having scorned, and possibly scotched, Archer's aspirations to be the first Mayor of London with a revival by Paul Foot of hoary allegations about his past, London's only evening paper is pursuing what could be mistaken for a personal attack.

Either that, or the *Standard* has another agenda — to fly the flag for the capital and fulfil the vitally important role of being London's own newspaper again, instead of a mere entertainment sheet for the tired commuters who represent almost half its readers.

I grew up with three London evening papers — the *Star*, the *News* and the *Standard*. Then there was Maxwell's ill-fated *London Daily News*. And now there is just the *Evening Standard*, struggling to maintain a circulation on the comforting side of 400,000. For decades I rarely went home without a *Standard*. There was a real pang of loss if I missed out. That was because the *Standard* was London's paper, one that knew London, loved London and could speak for London, even if you disagreed with its politics. It gave you a sense of belonging. My own reading of the *Standard* is now erratic. The paper, I feel, no longer reflects multi-faceted, marvellous and mischievous London. Too many serious issues remain neglected by reporters who are rarely allowed to roam beyond the fashionable dimes of SW3. A third of the population is ethnic-based, and generally ignored. Entertainment, especially for travel-weary commuters, has overtaken that relentless search for a certain kind of truth all newspapers must retain. What more could be expected when Max Hastings, a hunting, fishing, shooting countryman, was appointed editor? Yes, we have urban foxes and birds of prey but the pink minded people seen on

Hampstead Heath are seeing other sport. Suddenly, though, there are signs of transformation, albeit concentrating on one unique subject, London's first elected mayor. To its credit, the *Standard* plucked Labour's manifesto pledge for a referendum on this essentially new democratic concept out of the air. This at a time when the national dailies thought it a fun story rather than an opportunity to breathe new life into city administrations. But then the dailies, which do not recognise London as an entity, and one with 15 per cent of the seats in the House of Commons, have for too long failed to report London politics. They have even rid themselves of the luxury of local government correspondents, revealing a failure to appreciate the enormous influence the grassroots system, particularly in London, has on politics.

Dailies have long failed to report London politics

Why else did Margaret Thatcher describe a Tory-controlled GLC as the jewel in her crown and then wickedly castrate it when Ken Livingstone proved a people's tribune, at least as far as public transport was concerned? Stirring up more trouble for Lord Archer may be a good marketing tool, as the dailies are beginning to recognise. The mayoral debate is just like old times for Archer admirers and detractors alike. Yet even his adversary, Ken Livingstone, MP for Brent East, whom Labour equally seeks to discredit as a potentially highly popular mayor, is proving to be an ally. "Anyone who bounces back from so many setbacks can't be underestimated," declares Ken. "I still say he must have a good chance of winning, of being selected first of all and then being elected mayor." Livingstone believes the people should decide. But whatever the revelations in the *Standard*, they are a far cry from grappling with London's inherent problems. Neither are they a credible attempt to find a formidable mayor to transform its future. The exceeding bitter cry of the disinherit-ed has come to be as familiar in the ears of



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WEST END FINAL

Evening Standard

Why I am fit to be mayor

Jeffrey Archer answers the *Evening Standard's* criticisms: Pages 8 & 9

Archer v Livingstone — does the *Standard's* campaign mark a renaissance?

men as the dull roar of the streets or the moaning of the wind through the trees. And so it rises increasingly, year in and year out, and we are too busy or too idle, too indifferent or too selfish to spare it a thought," wrote W.T. Stead, crusading editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette* for a better London. That was in 1883. And the bitter cry is still with us if you begin to report and reveal London's dire property amid outrageous plenty, its crumbling services, rising violent crime, drug-infested, polluted streets, and provide the capital with a coherent voice and destiny it can call its own. Certainly, there is a huge void to be filled in the heart of a city that is about to elect the mayor to be its chosen champion for positive progress. Certainly, London also has a marvellous story of its own to be told — and sold. And that should provide a golden opportunity for some publication. Who will grab it?

Gerald Isaaman was editor of the *Hampstead* and *Highgate Express* for 25 years until 1994

TV to make us jump for joy

As a casual viewer, it is sometimes easy to despair about the state of television — and that is before all the new digital channels start arriving in the next few months. You just have to look at Channel 4's new Saturday evening quiz programme on the Sunday papers (what is Melvyn Bragg doing there?), or John Motson on football trivia on the BBC the previous evening. But any view about the state of television changes rapidly if you are offered, however temporarily, the role of international television critic. Initially, you squirm and try to escape when the nice man from the Banff Television Festival in Canada calls. You haven't got time to go to Alberta. No problem, says the man from Banff. We'll send you the tapes. But I only write about the industry, I'm not a critic. Just the sort of person we are looking for to give a different perspective to the panel of judges for the Sony International critics' prize, says the man from Banff.



alternative to switching over or switching off. I will pick up a tape at random from my box of quality, courtesy of the Banff Television Festival, and view it at leisure.

Not everyone, however, can suddenly find themselves pitched unexpectedly into an international critic's panel wading knee-deep in high-quality television. Would it be too outrageously idealistic to ask some of the proposed purveyors of 200 channels, or those planning to offer a mere 30 channels or so, to give some thought to a channel that brings together some of the very best of television from around the world?

American comedies are all well and good, but it would also be good to see offerings such as *Subway Stories* — ten tales by ten writers that all take place in the Underground. As one of the critics put it: "If O. Henry were alive today, he would jump for joy on seeing this film." Somehow a way should be found to make it easier to find programmes that really do make viewers jump for joy.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 12 1998

Fleet

Sir David English changed the face of newspapers for ever, says Sally Taylor

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English started on the *Chronicle* in Fleet Street, then moved to the *Standard*, and finally to the *Times*. He was never lost his sense of humour. He wrote the first column of his new paper. He was proud and determined that he should be on the road.

Fleet Street's great adventurer

Sir David English changed the face of newspapers for ever, says Sally Taylor

Had the late Sir David English written his own epitaph, he would no doubt have given top priority to his role as the editor who saved the *Daily Mail*. But his determination in carving out a successful middle-market tabloid for women in 1971 put English at the forefront of a marketing thrust that was not only to redefine the readership of the exhausted broadsheet. It would also lead to the concept of tailoring news and features to a target audience based on demographics and income.

When he began, English edited his paper for women purely on instinct. But his legacy to Associated Newspapers was the creation of a market niche that his successors have refined with a precision astonishing to competitors. And generally speaking, the techniques of presentation English helped to pioneer have, consciously or unconsciously, been adopted by most of the editors of the national titles in this country — the highly partisan and sometimes emotive approach to news, the "centring" of the reader in the story, the unapologetic appeal to the reader's immediate concerns and interests, and the news peg that relies heavily on popular culture.

Love it or loathe it, nobody can deny the pervasive influence of Sir David's own particular brand of the New Journalism.

But for Associated Newspapers, his leadership led to a circulation supercharge of covered ABCI readers, making the money-spinning *Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday* and *Evening Standard* the standard bearers of a highly professional commercial journalism, the like of which was not seen in this country before English's advent into the field.

It is said many of his ideas came from abroad. Indeed, during his tenure in America, first as the foreign correspondent for the *Sunday Dispatch*, then as the Washington and chief foreign correspondent for the *Express* during the 1960s, he became enamoured of American journalism and the entrepreneurial spirit he encountered in the United States.

When he returned to Britain, he was determined to bring with him the best aspects of what he had learnt. He came fully into his own when he and his proprietor Viscount Rothermere began the collaboration that would



The *Daily Mail* Editor Sir David English. Even his bitterest newspaper rivals were awed by the sheer professionalism of the product

forge the path to success for the *Mail* and Associated Newspapers.

English was quick to admit that in the difficult days following the relaunch of the *Daily Mail* in tabloid format, when circulation declined to 1.6 million, and his competitors were celebrating the beginning of the end, he cast about for a new approach. It was Rothermere who held him to the course. "Keep your nerve," he told English. "You are producing a very good paper and it is going to work. You should change nothing about it. Just go on improving it; but keep to the same style and plan. Believe in it, and in what you and the other journalists are doing."

It was this process of honing and improving that led to the emergence of English's own brand of New Journalism. Even his bitterest rivals were awed by the sheer professionalism of the product.

But for all his adherence to the new, Sir David remained a traditionalist with old-fashioned values. He spoke in heroic terms of "the great adventure", but his methodology was simple. It was down to boot straps

and hard work. And his own exuberance and energy seemed limitless.

In 1971, during the touch-and-go early days, he and his staff were clocking up as many as 19 hours a day trying, in English's own words, "to give birth to a new *Daily Mail*. Now we're only working 14 hours a day. I told you it would get better."

In 1982, enlisted by his proprietor to halt the declining circulation of the newly launched *Mail on Sunday* — a feat he carried out while simultaneously editing the *Daily Mail* — he and his "task force" had cots brought into the office so they could sleep there overnight. He used his irresistible charisma to cajole the staff into superhuman effort, often celebrating with colourful costume parties, dancing and champagne.

But he also employed bullying techniques and withering sarcasm to gain his ends. He was known for sending "Herograms", but he also sent telegrams so dire and condemnatory that the recipient was completely flattered. He encouraged internal competition among his staff, taking only the best, a process that

came to be known as "creative tension". Not all stayed the course.

One of his staff, John Golding, in a continuing mystery, disappeared off the face of the Earth. English's feature editor, Anthea Disney, who went on to edit the mass-circulation *TV Guide* in America and most recently to head Rupert Murdoch's News America publishing firm, rebelled against the workaholicism of David English, saying: "I know how hard I work, and I can only guess how hard you work, and, David, I don't want to work this hard."

And yet she and most of the staff who lasted it out for any length of time benefited not only from his professionalism but also from his technical proficiency. As his reputation grew, he had many opportunities to leave Associated Newspapers. Early in his career he was offered the post he had aspired to in his youth — the editorship of the *Daily Express*. Later, Rupert Murdoch offered him *The Sunday Times*, and as extra inducement, subsequently added the position of editor-in-chief of *The Times* as well as *The Sunday Times*.

But English knew his working relationship with Rothermere was remarkable, and he could not be lured away. He believed his destiny was with Associated Newspapers, and indeed, when he was made chairman and editor-in-chief in 1992, that destiny was fulfilled.

How much impact English had upon the political life of the country is more difficult to assess. When he met Margaret Thatcher in 1970, he was editor of the *Daily Sketch*, and the pair struck up a friendship based on mutual sympathies. He became an early proponent of the new conservatism, eventually making the *Daily Mail* the voice for Thatcherism. In April this year he told me he planned to write a book about his relationship with the former Prime Minister and the part he played in bringing the Tories to power.

Although he had enemies and critics aplenty, few would deny he had a flair for newspaper editorship little short of genius. Sally Taylor is the author of *The Reluctant Press Lord: Esmond Rothermere and the Daily Mail*.

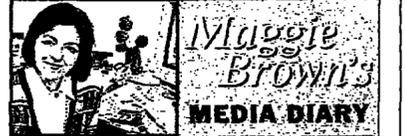
Kick-off for digital TV

THIS week marks the start of wide-screen digital television with BBC broadcasts of World Cup football on giant public screens. But viewers thinking of re-equipping with the new digital televisions should beware. It is going to take time for Britain's most popular programmes, led by *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street*, to convert.

This is because the scenes and sets used by soaps and game shows will have to be rebuilt to take account of the new wider shots. At present they are compressed, with rooms about two-thirds of normal size. *Coronation Street* is dinky, designed for midgets. Best placed is the TV producer Phil Redmond, who bought a real cul-de-

sac. The current format under Paul Robinson, the managing director, who is mounting a rival bid, is starting to work. Robinson, the former head of BBC radio strategy, arrived 18 months ago and rescued it from the original blkish "shock jock" crisis, which some fear that MacKenzie might plunge it back into.

Talk has attracted stars such as Kirsty Young, Danny Baker and Andy Gray and is buying sports rights. The ratings are rising and are expected to hit three million listeners a week this summer — as advertisers such as Apple Computers and BT pile in. MacKenzie would make a fine talk show presenter. Whether he can emulate Chris Evans



sac for *Brookside*. But that is why sport is getting the hard sell.

THERE has been wild speculation about the future of the TV heavyweight Barry Cox. Until recently Cox ran the ITV Association, after making his fortune alongside Sir Christopher Bland and Greg Dyke as a director of LWT. The Observer bizarrely touted this committed Blairite (whose ex-wife works as John Birt's trusted personal assistant) on its front page last Sunday as a potential deputy chairman of the BBC. Wrong.

In fact, Cox has just accepted two consultancies with Lord Hollick's increasingly rated United News & Media, to advise it on future digital strategy, and with ITN, lobbying over regulatory issues such as freedom of information. As for the fraught vacancy of deputy chairman of the BBC, I hear from impeccable sources that Lord Putnam's appointment may well have been successfully fought off.

TODAY, Sir David English's regular table at the Savoy was kept empty and a bouquet of flowers was laid upon it. Amid the shock following his death, there is a wave of speculation over who will succeed him as the chairman and Editor-in-chief of Associated Newspapers. The answer is nobody.

He created this personal post after relinquishing the *Daily Mail* editorship to Paul Dacre six years ago. It did not exist before and many of his activities with the Commonwealth Press Union and Press Complaints Commission were special to him. It is a grim thought, but the number of senior statesmen remaining active in the newspaper industry is shrinking fast: Lord Deedes, Peter Preston, Sir Frank Rogers and Sir Edward Pickering need cherishing. It is a situation quite unlike the law, business, the arts or even broadcasting.

KELVIN MACKENZIE'S bid for Talk Radio overlooks the uncomfortable fact that the three-year-old station is no longer a basket

(an expert radio operator) and also own the station he broadcasts on is another matter. I also hear rumours that stars such as Young are unlikely to hang around if MacKenzie wins.

The *Spectator* is celebrating its 170th anniversary on July 2, with a special issue and the (inevitable) launch of an Internet site. But the publisher, Kimberly Fortier, has abandoned attempts to take a photo of the last five editors: Frank Johnson, Dominic Lawson, Charles Moore, Alexandra Chancellor and Nigel Lawson. "It's the equivalent of trying to get five tenors together," she says. "And the egos involved in who would stand next to whom..." Instead, she is arranging to wrap the offices, in Doughty Street, in an enormous ribbon. Much more fun. And Dickens, who once lived on the street, would surely approve of her impresario's touch.

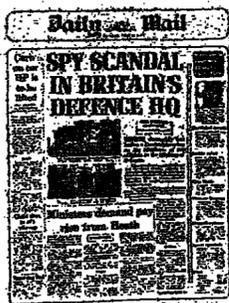
JOHN SULLIVAN, the creator of *Only Fools and Horses*, tells me he is hard at work adapting Dickens's *David Copperfield* as a three-part BBC drama and is assigning the key parts to actors he loves working with. He has approached an enthusiastic David Jason to play Mr Macawber and Nicholas (Rodney) Lyndhurst for "ever so 'umble Uriah Heep" with Pauline Quirke as the loyal Pegotty. Meanwhile, Sullivan is continuing to pen "politically incorrect" BBC sitcoms. His latest, *Heartburn Hotel*, about a sleazy hotel for working-class, middle-aged male losers in Birmingham, was launched this week but has been buried in a late July starting slot, just at the point, grumbled Sullivan, when viewers head for Spain.

In an article in last week's *Media Times* we incorrectly stated that the *Nine O'Clock News* had made the story of Paul Gascoigne being axed from the England squad its lead item. This was, in fact, the *Six O'Clock News* lead item. The *Nine O'Clock News* had led on the Afghanistan earthquake.



Del and Rodney, earmarked for *David Copperfield*

What makes a great editor?



May 3, 1971: First copy of the relaunched *Mail*, carrying David English's unique s



April 7, 1975: The *Mail*'s mercy airlift for orphans out of the carnage of the Vietnam War



July 27, 1978: The lovely Louise Brown, the world's first test-tube baby



March 29, 1975: Mrs Thatcher forces Labour to call an election, which she won



April 1, 1981: Victory against the sinister Moonies, who had sued the *Mail* for libel

He was a "giant of journalism" said *The Express*, the newspaperman's newspaperman and the editors' editor, said *The Guardian*. One of the greatest tributes to the towering stature of Sir David English in modern British journalism was that some of the most glowing were paid in newspapers that were his fiercest rivals, or which detested his politics.

English started his career on the *Christchurch Times* exactly 50 years ago, when Fleet Street was still the street of adventure, the *Daily Express* was cock of the walk, and journalists smoked and drank till the sun came up.

Fifty years on, he still retained his boyish, American-inspired, hold-the-front-page joy in the craft of journalism — but the *Daily Mail* was cock of the walk. As Max Hastings, whom English hired from *The Daily Telegraph* to edit the *Evening Standard*, said yesterday, he never lost his excitement about a scoop. And as Ann Leslie wrote, he adored the sheer fun, the crazy derring-do of being a foreign correspondent and deeply envied those he employed who were out on the road.

Nowadays too many journalists rarely leave their desks, sit bewitched by winking cursors all day in non-smoking newsrooms, and lunch from sandwich trolleys wheeled to their desks. Sandwich trolleys were not the English way. He was still inspired by the romance of the old Fleet Street and that was why journalists admired him. At *The Mirror*, journalists were treated like a form of pond life: at the *Daily Mail*, they were kings, said one of his protégés yesterday. "The best advice I can give you," English told Sandra Parsons when she left to join *The Times*, "is to take the people who are going to be working for you out to lunch."

Yet lunches, where journalists often get their best stories, are frowned upon in modern Fleet Street. English was a good luncher himself, often at the Savoy Grill, where he wooed columnists, entertained politicians and swapped gossip with editors and journalists from other newspapers and assessed the talent on other newspapers. He rang me once to ask if the reputation of a young journalist was justified. Next day the man was hired with a £100,000 salary and a chauffeur-driven Jag. It was where

he lured Keith Waterhouse from *The Mirror* by presenting him with a *Mail* column prepared as an exact replica of his column in *The Mirror*.

Some of the gifts of David English were outlined yesterday by Paul Dacre, his successor at the *Daily Mail*. English cared passionately about his craft, said Dacre. "There are great reporters, glorious fea-

ture writers, brilliant sub-editors, clever polemicists and awe-inspiring editors. Most journalists have one of these qualities, the lucky ones two. English had them all."

At heart, he was always a reporter seized by the excitement of a good story. Lynda Lee-Potter described yesterday how, when the *Mail* serialised the story of the Potters murders in 1977, English wrote the series himself in two days in his hotel room, sat up all night with the sole survivor as she read his copy, and then re-

turned on the first train to edit the paper. The tributes deservedly paid to English raise the question of the defining qualities that make great editors. Judgment, judgment and judgment — and add in stamina. Sir Edward Pickering, the Editor of the *Daily Express* from 1955 to 1962, was told years ago. That certainly

applied to English and his ability to judge the mix of stories that appealed to his Middle England constituency of readers — and especially his judgment that there was a fennal market to be tapped.

English was so feline, a proprietor once told me admiringly. The comment was made shortly after he had turned round *The Mail* on Sunday after its launch. All the obloquy was heaped on the launch editor, leaving English clear to man the lifeboat and claim (deservedly) the credit. When Sandra

Parsons had secured the Goebbels diaries, she got a call from English. "You are sure, aren't you," he said over the phone. "Only I've got a cheque for £750,000 for an advertising campaign in front of me and I wanted to be certain."

It was that feline characteristic, allied to his capacity to make mischief — another quality of a great editor — which made for all those oh-so-readable but bitchy features.

Another quality was flair, the ability to seize and exploit stories that captured the hearts of *Mail* readers. Jonathan Holborow, the Editor of *The Mail on Sunday*, cited as one example English's decision to hire a plane to fly to Saigon in 1975 and airlift 99 babies and young children out of Vietnam to England shortly before the fall of Saigon. Many of them have subsequently prospered in Britain.

Yet another is an ability to gamble and the courage to persist with a gut instinct. English demonstrated that when he paved the way to the tabloid revolution in 1971, converted the *Daily Mail* from a broadsheet and joined the *Daily Mirror* and the *Sun* as a tabloid. It was a high-risk

strategy; it didn't immediately work but he persevered and prospered. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery and the example of the *Mail* tabloid has been widely imitated, almost universally across the regional press and also now by the broadsheets.

English was no saint. He was vain and he made mistakes. He believed in creative tension among his executives and ruled by fear. He made grown men weep. He often distorted the news to support Margaret Thatcher and do down Neil Kinnock.

Yet the staff who met his tests of hard work and professionalism genuinely loved him and he rewarded them with total loyalty and a paternalist interest in their careers, their salaries (*Mail* journalists are well paid) and their families. For his favourites, he became a substitute father. Yet it is not only *Mail* journalists but all journalists who are indebted to English. As Hastings said, his great contribution to the newspaper industry was that he promoted the supremacy of journalism — and in an era when some newspaper empires put a higher value on the price of their shares.



Play spot the World Cup sponsor

Dozens of firms are cashing in with World Cup advertising, although they are not sponsors. Can you identify the genuine team members?

A short test before you read on. Can you name the official sponsors of the World Cup? Although each has paid \$30 million (£18 million) for the privilege, if you can get half of them, you're probably a sports anorak. (There are 12; they are listed at the bottom of this piece.) Collectively they have spent millions on ads promoting their "official" sponsor status to a public that doesn't really give a stuff. What difference does it make to anybody thinking of buying a pair of trainers whether Nike or Adidas is the official sponsor? But to the companies that have signed up it is important that we know. Many will spend at least as much again in advertising their sponsorships. And as well as the money there is corporate hubris: no official sponsor wants his category "ambushed" by an "unofficial" rival spending half as much money. It would be interesting to repeat the exercise at the end of the tournament, and see if repeated exposure to the likes of pitch-side stadium hoardings makes a difference to levels of recall.

Only the official sponsors are allowed to use the France '98 logo, but in this run-through of the best and worst of World Cup-related ads, can you tell which is official, which an ambush?

Nike (Airport). A sublime piece of film — if it's not too pretentious to describe an ad as such. With the help of some dazzling direction, the joy and verve with which the Brazilian team go through their astonishing repertoire of tricks reminds us that there's more to the game than sponsors, TV rights and nightclub antics. The evident relish with which they make fun of themselves suggests they're a nice bunch of guys, too. Supreme athletes in action. Performance rating: 9/10

Nike (Beach). An introduction to the new generation of talent signed up to Nike: Ronaldo — who we all know — and the likes of Ibrahim Ba, Ariel Ortega and Hernán Crespo, who we may not (yet). They have a kickabout on the beach with almost as much natural relish as the Brazilians do at the airport. Sadly, there's not a British player in sight. 8/10

Walkers (Romario). A World Cup-related twist on the popular Gary Lineker campaign. Brazilian superstar Romario wants a little boy's packet of crisps. The boy forces him to trade ever more of his Brazil kit, we see Romario take to the field and score — naked! It's all good fun, and landing him was a coup, whether he plays or not. 7/10

Adidas (Beckham). With Liverpool's Michael Owen exploding onto the scene too recently to have been signed up as a top-level endorser for this tournament, David Beckham is by far the most marketable English player. (What a tragedy Ryan Giggs is Welsh!) This ad, contrasting the pessimistic career forecast for Beckham by his teacher,

with his later success, is clever and bang on Adidas's sporting heritage strategy. 7/10

Danepak (Peter Schmeichel). The great Dane sings a ditty explaining that the beautiful bikini-clad girls he is surrounded by all love Danepak because it's lean and doesn't ruin their figures. A top performance by Schmeichel, who has a real glint in his eye. 7/10

Snickers (Beardsley). All credit to Peter Beardsley for being able to acknowledge that he's the butt of all the "ugly bloke" jokes, and joining in. Respect to the ad agency's creative team who had the bottle to ask him in the first place. The idea is that it will take the make-up team so long to make Beardsley look OK that they will need a break with Snickers. His looks may yet prove his fortune. 6/10

McDonald's (Shearer/Eurostar). A funny commercial in which Shearer parodies Eric Cantona's Eurostar ad of two years ago in which the great French philosopher mocked his own tendency to speak in riddles. It would be even better, however, if we could believe in the premise that Shearer finds the smell of a fellow passenger's Big Mac "sweet". 6/10

BBC Language Courses (Le Saux et al). Graeme Le Saux — together with Steve McManaman — is clearly England's token intelligent footballer.

This makes him a good choice to star in this ad for the BBC's French language course, in which he tries to get Les Ferdinand and Ally McCoist out of trouble after they break a window. 6/10

Snickers (Andy Gray). Gray bores various members of the England squad, such as Martin Keown, to death with his analysis. Entirely predictable — and none the worse for that. 6/10

McDonald's (Shearer/Autograph). It seems sadly appropriate, given all the recent publicity, that England's captain and biggest hope in the tournament features most prominently in ads for a hamburger chain. Although Shearer's acting lacks the insouciance that he displays in the penalty area, it's a sweet script. The young lad who is desperately seeking Shearer's autograph is

well cast. One criticism, however: it's a bit slow. 5/10

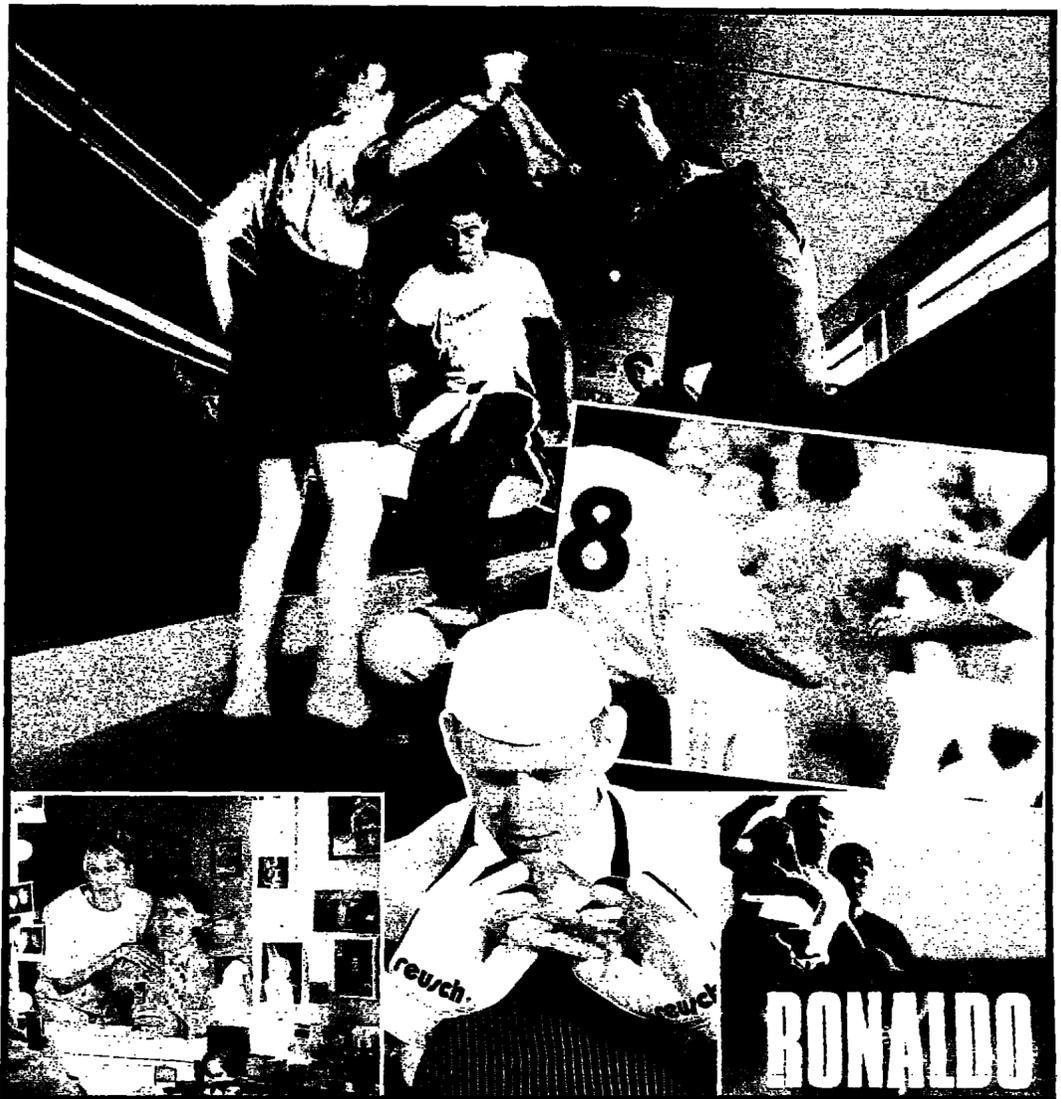
Adidas (Del Piero et al). Various Adidas-wearing superstars (including Alessandro Del Piero and David Beckham) take their boots off in the dressing room and go into a vast auditorium for training. Deliberately cold and clinical. 5/10

Jaffa Cakes (Adams). It's good to see the former England skipper in an ad after the bad publicity he had for so long — there's hope for Gaza yet. As for the script — Tony Adams imprisoned by Jaffa Cakes — it's about as clear as Hoddle's selection plans. 4/10

Vauxhall Dealers (Graham Taylor). It doesn't matter what it's advertising. How could they bring back Graham Taylor? Do we not like this? 2/10

Vauxhall Dealers (McCoist). An ad agency somewhere in the West End. It's a 0 per cent finance offer. I know. Scots mean with their money. We'll get a Scottish player. Trouble is, no one's heard of any of them. Um... What about that Ally McCoist? Shame he didn't make the squad! 1/10

Missed the squad: Braun (Shearer); Peperami (right arm); Comet (parody of Nike "airport"); Carlsberg (African tribesmen and Buddhist priests discuss England's team selection); Carling (does anyone have a clue what it's



Winners and losers on soccer's sales pitch: clockwise, from the top, television advertisements from Nike, Walkers crisps, Nike, Danepak and Snickers



Stefano Hatfield

(Official sponsors: MasterCard, Adidas, McDonald's, Fuji, JVC, Phillips, Opel, Coca-Cola, Budweiser, Canon, Gillette, Snickers.)

Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign.

'My safety means nothing'

As foreign correspondents flock to Kosovo this week in anticipation of "another Bosnia", local reporters who have always worked in Kosovo's capital, Pristina, have to carry on as best they can. All journalists in Kosovo face special problems because Serb police are preventing them from entering Decane, the region at the centre of the fighting. If local and foreign journalists want to stay in touch with the action, they are forced into an uneasy alliance which highlights the differences between them. Ardian Arifaj works for *Koha Ditore* (The Daily Times) in Pristina, where 12 journalists, using rope computers, produce a paper with a circulation of 30,000. Its high reputation comes from its status as an independent newspaper, founded as an alternative to the warmongering Balkan media. Last month Arifaj managed to silence a room full of war correspondents at an event for World Press Freedom Day in London. As they argued loudly for greater protection of journalists, he stood and said quietly: "I have never asked for any kind of protection from any agency: how can I see my own safety when I see babies and women being killed? When you are local, you feel what you experience as a journalist is nothing compared to what people in the villages are suffering. I would be ashamed to mention it." At 24, he is one of the oldest journalists on the staff, whose members routinely stay up past midnight to translate Albanian copy into English to broadcast on the Web. "Almost every foreign journalist who arrives in Kosovo will walk through our office

Helen Rumbelow reports on the dilemma of a Kosovo journalist

door," says Arifaj, who has formed close working relationships with Jonathan Steele, from *The Guardian*, and Tom Walker, from *The Times*. In Kosovo, the local and the foreign journalist need each other to reach the forbidden fighting zones: the new arrivals can employ Arifaj as an interpreter, which gets him past police checkpoints, while in return he will guide them past roadblocks. However, once at a village,

Arifaj encounters his own problems. First, local residents may suspect him of being a spy. Secondly, villagers often do not want to draw attention to their activities in the local media. And when they find out he works for an independent paper, they may accuse him of lack of patriotism. "The hate is so strong that anyone who is against hate is seen as against the nation," he says. It was a difficult decision for Arifaj to become a journalist



Arifaj: "When I see children killed, I lose my objectivity"

as he holds the local media largely responsible for the war in the former Yugoslavia. He remembers journalists, in particular those from the state-run Serbian television, whipping up racial hatred with inflammatory and distorted reports of atrocities.

Now he is determined to use journalism to wage war on propaganda, but his beliefs are sorely tested. "The dilemma between being an Albanian and being a professional is very hard to resolve. When I see children being killed, I feel myself losing my grip on objectivity, and wonder if I am being a fool to believe in the idea of living together with those who do such crimes." Arifaj is also well aware of his vulnerability. While he is fighting these internal battles, he is also struggling to contain his envy of his international colleagues. "If something happens to me, my editor will try but he has no power to save me. This is what makes us jealous of foreign journalists: the protection they get from being foreigners."

As long as they stick together, journalists will increase their chances of getting themselves, and the story, out safely. But they each have different ambitions for when and if the war ends in Kosovo: the foreign correspondent to move on to covering greater and more exciting wars, the local to cover the enjoyable trivia of a town at peace.

"Here the abnormal is normal, the normal abnormal. We have to fight to remember what it was like before the war," he says. And what of his ambitions? "When this is over I don't want to see any more action," he says. "I just want to spend my days happily, writing about how the coyote never quite manages to kill the bird."

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using a Touch-tone telephone and tap in their 12 selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. Checkline Check your score after the Canadian Grand Prix by calling 0891 884 648 (+44 900 100 348 ex UK) using your PIN. Faxback Service Call our faxback service on 0991 111 444 (UK only. Faxback call cost £1/min). Transfers Change up to four selections before the French race by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 900 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday June 25. An updated leaderboard will be published next Friday.

RESULTS OF THE CANADIAN GRAND PRIX

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole D Coulthard 30 points; 2nd M Hakkinen 25; 3rd M Schumacher 24; 4th G Fisichella 23; 5th R Schumacher 22; 6th J Villeneuve 21; 7th H-H Frenzen 20; 8th E Irvine 19; 9th J Alesi 18; 10th D Hill 17; 11th A Wurz 16; 12th J Herbert 15; 13th R Barrichello 14; 14th J Trulli 13; 15th O Panis 12; 16th T Takagi 11; 17th M Salo 10; 18th S Nakano 9; 19th P Dintz 8; 20th J Magnussen 7.

Finishing points (scored for the top 20 classified positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st M Schumacher 80 points; 2nd G Fisichella 50; 3rd E Irvine 40; 4th A Wurz 30; 5th R Barrichello 28; 6th J Magnussen 28; 7th S Nakano 27; 8th R Rosset 26; 9th P Dintz 25; 10th J Villeneuve 24. (Only 10 were classified).

Lap points (one point for each lap completed): M Schumacher 69 points; G Fisichella 59; E Irvine 59; A Wurz 59; R Barrichello 59; J Magnussen 59; S Nakano 59; R Rosset 59; P Dintz 59; J Villeneuve 59; E Tuero 59; D Hill 42; O Panis 39; H-H Frenzen 36; D Coulthard 18; J Herbert 18; M Salo 18; M Hakkinen 0; R Schumacher 0; J Alesi 0; J Trulli 0; T Takagi 0. Improvement from starting grid to finishing position (3 points for each improved place): J Magnussen 42 points; R Rosset 42; S Nakano 33; P Dintz 30; R Barrichello 24; A Wurz 21; E Irvine 16; M Schumacher 6; G Fisichella 6. Fastest lap time of grand prix: M Schumacher 10 points. Penalty points incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): J Herbert -10 points. Did not finish the race (10 points deducted): E Tuero -10 points; D Hill -10; O Panis -10; H-H Frenzen -10; D Coulthard -10; J Herbert -10; M Salo -10; M Hakkinen -10; R Schumacher -10; J Alesi -10; J Trulli -10; T Takagi -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): none. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

CONSTRUCTORS: Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Ferrari 30 points; Benetton 25; Stewart 22; Minardi 20; Tyrrell 19; Arrows 16; Williams 17. Penalty points incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): Sauber -10 points. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): McLaren -20 points; Jordan -20; Prost -20; Sauber -20; Williams -10; Arrows -10; Tyrrell -10; Minardi -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): none. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

BONUS POINTS: apply to six grands prix during the 1998 Formula One championship, the third of which is the British GP. Correctly predicting winning driver: 100 points; second place: 200 points; third place: 300 points

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Canadian Grand Prix. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far

DRIVERS			
GROUP A		GROUP B	
01 D Hill	49 560	12 A Wurz	136 720
02 M Schumacher	169 882	13 R Schumacher	12 322
03 D Coulthard	38 772	14 J Trulli	3 390
04 G Fisichella	148 668	15 J Herbert	13 580
05 J Villeneuve	108 787	16 M Salo	18 348
06 O Panis	41 538	17 P Dintz	131 315
07 H-H Frenzen	30 651	18 J Magnussen	145 422
08 E Irvine	143 634	19 T Takagi	1 417
09 M Hakkinen	15 689	20 R Rosset	138 343
10 J Alesi	8 649	21 S Nakano	137 617
11 R Barrichello	136 455	22 E Tuero	43 376

CONSTRUCTORS			
GROUP C		GROUP D	
23 Williams	7 112	29 Sauber	-30 42
24 Ferrari	30 155	30 Arrows	8 -61
25 Benetton	25 89	31 Stewart	22 -2
26 McLaren	-20 135	32 Tyrrell	9 -11
27 Jordan	-20 3	33 Minardi	10 -6
28 Prost	-20 -42		

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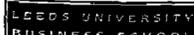
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EDUCATION

The Government's proposed University of Industry has found a new direction, Tom Cannon says

Industry educates itself

When Gordon Brown first trumpeted his plan for a University for Industry (Ufi), parallels were immediately drawn with the pet project of Harold Wilson, which became the Open University. But, after a long period of uncertainty, the new project is emerging as a much more radical proposal.

The Ufi goes beyond the Open University's attempt to deliver a generally traditional university menu of research, degrees and formal qualifications through a new medium. It will target groups missed out by other educational institutions, offering a genuinely different vision of a university, providing access to learning rather than offering its own qualifications.

The concept has not pleased everyone. Sir John Daniel, Vice Chancellor of the Open University and a member of the Ufi advisory group, questioned whether the Ufi was truly a University — a point which John Randall, Chief Executive of the Quality Assurance Agency repeated recently. Sir John also asked whether the Ufi would really serve industry's needs.

However, Mr Brown was anxious not to fall into the trap of allowing new governments to reinvent the wheel. He had watched as the Internet and other communications and information technologies grew into global sources of information. And he saw the success of company-based learning centres or "universities" at Motorola, Ford and Unipart. The challenge was to create an innovative institution that linked workplace learning and information technology to increase the skills and training of the population.

The year since the election has seen a series of pilot and experimental projects. These were designed to explore market needs, test the ways to reach different groups and examine the potential and limitations of different technologies.

A high-profile pilot project in Sunderland highlighted the Ufi's potential to generate massive interest across a wide community. It also demonstrated the scope for using non-traditional, community-based routes, such as Sunder-

land Football Ground, to attract potential users.

Other pilots highlighted the importance of good marketing and clear focus while flagging up some of the practical and operational barriers to reaching the Ufi's priority groups. Small and medium-size businesses, for example, are wary of new information and communication technologies, while those lacking basic skills need help to get the best out of the technology.

The pilots unleashed a flood of innovation that was reflected in the Pathfinder Prospectus published earlier this year. In it, David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, placed the Ufi at the heart of the Government's lifelong learning strategy, demanding that it play a leading role in the "learning revolution". The focus of Ufi's work was placed on greater employability for individuals and increased competitiveness for organisations.

This emphasis largely resolved the year-long debate over the Ufi's role and its contribution to the Government's effort to tackle the problems of social exclusion that blight British education.

At the European Conference on Lifelong Learning late last month, David Sainsbury robustly defended this priority. He made clear his view that tackling unemployment and improving competitiveness were essential to overcoming social exclusion.

The Government's target is to launch the Ufi in England, Wales and Northern Ireland with the separate Scottish Ufi by 2000 with a Website established by the end of this year. Next spring a franchise network of learning centres will be established, backed by a national advertising campaign.

This timetable is tight. The Open University, for example, took more than twice as long to take a similar idea from the drawing board to the market.

When the Ufi was first announced, there were fewer than ten million Internet hosts; now there are more than 20 million. The number of Webservers has doubled. Even since the election, a flurry of "virtual" universities has been launched in the UK. In Wales, for example, the Digital College has estab-



Kim Howells, Education and Employment Minister, left, at the Ufi pilot at the University of Sunderland



Lord Sainsbury, chair of the Ufi board, left, at a Ufi learning centre in a Sainsbury's supermarket coffee shop

lished a strong market position in less than six months. The pace of change in the private sector is even faster.

These innovations are part of wider, global changes that will challenge the Ufi's ability to carve out a distinct role and reach its target of 2.5 million users by 2002. Part of the solution lies in emphasising Ufi's role as a broker of other people's programmes and services. This emphasis on partnership has encouraged media companies such as Channel 4 and the BBC to vie with industry boards such as CAPITB, in the clothing industry, and traditional providers such as the universities to develop partnerships and products.

The Ufi does not fit into the narrow view of a university that has dominated higher education in the UK for so long. Its model is older — rooted in the university as a point of access to a wider world of learning — yet new in its exploitation of fresh ideas and technologies to widen access.

The new university will act as a gateway to the rapidly changing world of lifelong learning and also as a gatekeeper — commissioning material to fill gaps; setting quality standards for materials and ensuring that effective support is available.

● The author is Chief Executive of the Management Charter Initiative.

Lessons as fresh as air

Delicate children used to be cured outdoors, says Helen Johnstone

For more than 70 years Britain's "delicate" children, so-called because of ailments such as asthma and bronchitis, were sent off to open-air schools where they took lessons from camp beds in the playground. The only concession in bad weather was that lessons could take place undercover, albeit in rooms open to the elements.

The story of this much-forgotten piece of Britain's educational history is recalled in a new book by two former pupils of the open-air system. Though the schooling method would horrify modern-day educationists, physicians could only marvel at the apparent success in controlling asthma, which now affects more than 1.5 million children.

Britain's first open-air school was established in 1907 in Plumstead, South London. It had been modelled on a pioneering scheme in Germany where a school for sick children was opened in a forest near Charlottenburg.

The results were so satisfactory that more were set up. In its heyday, there were 101 day schools and 22 residential schools provided by local education authorities and 32 more residential schools by voluntary effort. They jointly catered for more than 17,000 youngsters at one time.

A government report at the time suggested that up to 80 per cent of the children sent to the special schools were cured. In one official report in the 1930s, a doctor wrote: "The cases which show the most dramatic improvement when placed under open-air conditions are those of malnutrition, anaemia and bronchitis. Fresh air conditions and instructions in the art of proper breathing have, in many cases, provided a definite cure. This restoration of health will alter the future prospects of the children entirely."

With advances in medicine and the establishment of the National Health Service, demand for the schools fell and by the 1970s most had closed

or were given to children with special needs.

At the age of six Frances Wilmot, now 54, was sent to Uffculme, one of six schools near Birmingham financed by Cadbury, the chocolate-making family, suffering from bronchitis. Mrs Wilmot, a librarian from Lerrington, was released after six years, having been cured, and has since led a healthy life. "I was unwell when I was sent to Uffculme," she says. "But the combination of fresh air and specialist treatment worked wonders."

"By the time I left I was perfectly healthy and have stayed that way ever since. I think if I had remained in my mainstream school it would have been very different. We were very happy, which is surprising, considering how Spartan the regime was."

Mrs Wilmot and a fellow former pupil Pauline Saul have collated the reminiscences of 160 ex-pupils from the six Birmingham schools for their book, *A Breath of Fresh Air: Birmingham's Open Air Schools 1911-1970*.

Mrs Wilmot, an asthma sufferer, also spent six years at an open school. "The first seven or eight years of my life were spent in hospitals," she says. "The first two winters at the open school were horrendous. It was so cold that I used to go home at night with my hands and feet swollen from the cold. I was glad to get home to let them thaw out. But I got used to it and I believe my time there put me firmly back on the road to health."

A fellow asthma sufferer, Diane Smith, who attended the school from 1949-55, says: "Those days were the happiest of my life. The teachers were so kind and everyone was so friendly." John Bonner, who stayed at Uffculme during 1952, says: "I was loathe to leave after a year at that wonderful place. I never had one day off work in 30 years after that."

Quality time? Give it a rest

There is nothing wrong with a child feeling bored, argues Kevin Berry

The idea of "quality time" worries me. Children have to work so hard at school, there is homework on top of the daily grind and more examinations and tests than my generation ever had.

What spare time children have is organised into activity clubs — you don't kick a ball around with your pals, you join a football team, while a hobby seems to have no credibility unless it has the virtues of organisation and awards. Children don't simply play a game, they are coached or have lessons.

On top of all that, parents insist on giving children quality time. Saturdays are for family trips to the supermarket, while on Sundays off-spring are bundled into the family car and whisked off for outings to a theme park or a cinema complex. The weekends are filled with engagements. Holiday weeks are equally busy — if it's not holiday clubs, then it's back into the car for even more days out.

"But it's educational, it's good for them," claims a neighbour. Well, I am not so sure. With so many activities and trips, the sense of anticipation can hardly register, the experience itself becomes just one of a number.

Parents are extremely busy — and they are making childhood equally busy and hectic. Children now live at such a frantic pace and they surely must be feeling the same amount of stress and tension as their working parents. Do children have detailed engagement diaries? It wouldn't surprise me in the least — I have seen many children aged between ten and 15 clutching their Filofaxes.

When do they have time to be on their own? When do they have time to be thoroughly, gloriously bored?

I dare say that if children

were to admit to being bored, then their mothers and fathers would fly into a panic, wondering how and why they had failed them, and then rush the children into town to look at the latest family entertainment, fervently hoping that the words "I'm bored" had not been overheard by a passing social worker.

I can remember spending much of my childhood being swathed in endless days of boredom — yes, having nothing to do and all day in which to do it. If I went out with my mates, we would kick a ball around in the park and then maybe wander off, at a leisurely pace, wondering what on earth to do next — we had absolutely no idea what was going to happen.

We were not governed by the need to be home at a certain time and there was no pressure to achieve something. If someone suggested a walk or a bike ride to the next village, then off we went, we did not have to consult diaries and then rearrange appointments. We had time and freedom to make choices, there was nothing organised for us.

When pressure came, after we had sat the 11-plus, we slipped into a routine, one that was largely organised by ourselves. Homework tasks were completed, but there was still time to fill in whatever way we wanted. By contrast, if modern children have to organise themselves in a totally new environment, such as university, it must be terribly difficult for them.

But back to the pleasures of boredom. When you are bored life can open so many possibilities, there are choices and there is time to try them. You learn how to make decisions. You find out more about yourself, you have the time and freedom to organise yourself and there is no urgency.

"I'm bored, I've got absolutely nothing to do," my

youngest daughter complained to me during one of last summer's brightest days. "So? What do you expect me

to do about it?" was my response. Well now, does that make me a bad parent?

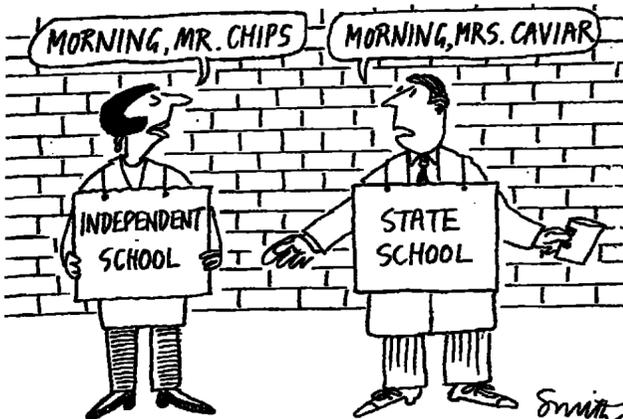
Heads call for new voice

Teachers must improve the status of their profession

The chasm between state and independent schools is alive and well, in spite of the hopeful signs from the cross-sector projects being sponsored by the Government. Parents and teachers in state schools often assume wrongly that their independent neighbours cater exclusively for rich children. Equally, private schools can be unaware of the strides being made in the maintained sector in pupil monitoring, information technology and science provision.

Differing levels of resourcing, legal status and parental attitudes all contribute to the divide. But there are things that unite teachers in all schools, above all the belief that each child deserves the best possible start and the almost total absence, until now, of careers guidance.

A group of head teachers and senior teachers from both sectors met to discuss career development recently in St George's House, at Windsor Castle. The venue was chosen to show that concern for the teaching profession comes from the heart of the country. There are too many perceptions of failure in education and too little celebration of success. At Windsor, people recalled careers where they



had faced cabals, special measures, missed opportunities, or spent too long or too short a time in particular posts.

The recently published RSA report *Redefining Work* was the catalyst for an exploration of the changing trends in employment and the implications for schools. While fewer than 20 per cent of youngsters now expect to be with the same employer for life, teachers feel that, although underpaid, they do have the right to remain as an employee in a particular school for 40 years.

Some 25 per cent of workers are part-time, a trend that will probably grow in education. Already there are agencies

which employ supply teachers and even head teachers on limited-time contracts.

While the sector is changing, there was agreement at Windsor that if a school aims only to educate for work, it is doing no more than a fraction of its job.

Concerns about racism, for example, are just as appropriate in a public school with large numbers of overseas pupils as they are in a South London state school. Yet a holistic approach has to work within the constraints of a system in which the ability to mount extra-curricular activities may be limited.

The Windsor group felt

strongly that teachers must seize the moment to create a profession with a status similar to that of doctors, lawyers or accountants. Teachers want a voice to discuss issues such as peer review, career paths and professional practice.

Careers guidance is offered to those under 21 and outplacement advice is widely available for those in business. The Windsor meeting was a first attempt to do the same for teachers.

ANNE LEE

● The programme was run by Next Chapter Ltd. For details of future events, phone 01483-225-495.

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He also hopes to catch the eye of Clive Woodward sufficiently to promote himself for a first cap on this tour...

Lewsey's immediate opponent tomorrow is Lee Stensness, the experienced international, while Greening must face Norm Hewitt...



Sims, the Gloucester lock, knuckles down to the task at training in Rotorua yesterday

long-term deputy as All Blacks hooker to Sean Fitzpatrick. He will do so in the company of four Gloucester forwards after the promotion yesterday of Tony Wido...

Quinnell causes worry SCOTT QUINNELL yesterday became Wales's latest injury concern on the tour of South Africa...

felt at Gloucester over the past season. "The past 12 months have been an absolute nightmare" the hooker said...

When he returned to fitness, he found himself third choice at Gloucester, behind Chris Forsey and Neil McCarthy...

The Otago pack splintered the Auckland eight during the Super 12 tournament. The England aspirants face a demanding task...

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6.30 MARRIOTT HOTELS HANDICAP (SKY) (£3,558; 2m) (4 runners) 1-4-0 DARK GREEN 21 P. 4-5-10; 2-7-0 Queen 2; 3-1-1 VERONICA FRANCIS 17 P. 4-5-10; 4-1-1 DANA O'NEILL 3; 5-1-1 HILARY WATSON 18 P. 4-5-10.

7.00 EBF AUDI MAIDEN (SKY) FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O; £3,655; 6f) (10) 1-3-0 BORN FREE P. 4-5-10; 2-4-4 DOUBLE CROSS 28 P. 4-5-10; 3-1-1 ENEMY ACTION 11 P. 4-5-10; 4-1-1 GOODWOOD JAZZ 17 P. 4-5-10; 5-1-1 LAURETTA 10 P. 4-5-10; 6-1-1 WJ O'CONNOR 6; 7-1-1 LEAVE IT TO ME 27 P. 4-5-10; 8-1-1 MADAME JURY P. 4-5-10; 9-1-1 MADONNA 18 P. 4-5-10; 10-1-1 SWELL BETTY 11 P. 4-5-10.

8.00 GOODWOOD MOTOR CIRCUIT (SKY) REVIVAL CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O; £3,558; 1m) (4) 1-0-0 SANTIAGO 24 P. 4-5-10; 2-1-0 DANIEL WATSON 20 P. 4-5-10; 3-1-0 SURETY 11 P. 4-5-10; 4-1-0 GUMBLETT 27 P. 4-5-10.

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7.20 UNSLEY REUNION HANDICAP CHASE (SKY) (£4,648; 3m 10f) (8) 1-4-1-1 RANDOM HARVEST 18 P. 4-5-10; 2-1-1 THE COPPER 21 P. 4-5-10; 3-1-1 THE COPPER 21 P. 4-5-10; 4-1-1 THE COPPER 21 P. 4-5-10; 5-1-1 THE COPPER 21 P. 4-5-10; 6-1-1 THE COPPER 21 P. 4-5-10; 7-1-1 THE COPPER 21 P. 4-5-10; 8-1-1 THE COPPER 21 P. 4-5-10.

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Savill flow to put r before b. THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 12 1998. PETER SWINNEY... SANDOWN PARK... 2.00... 2.35... 3.05... RESULTS FROM Y...

CRICKET

Crawley sets out on long road back

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

OLD TRAFFORD (first day of four: Lancashire won toss): Somerset, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 230 runs behind Lancashire

THIS was a day that rewarded careful watching. The balance of play shifted first one way as Crawley and McKewen batted sensibly against the swinging ball before lunch, then another when Somerset took seven wickets in the afternoon. Lancashire's score of 267, modest on paper, is not necessarily a poor one.

The pitch, though not particularly quick, offered Caddick steep bounce, and Rose and Trescott moved the ball away from the bat all day.

Lancashire twice lost wickets to successive balls, and Crawley played very well for his 72, as did Hegg, whose unbeaten half-century was his fourth score of more than fifty in six championship innings.

To watch Caddick bowling at Crawley after Atherton had made a strokeless 20-ball duck was a reminder of the talent England have failed to mine in the last three years, though the players themselves are responsible for seven-tenths of the problem. Caddick didn't get the other man out but he did finish with four wickets.

Of the two, Crawley's chances of playing Test cricket again are much the greater. Caddick is widely perceived as lacking heart, otherwise he would be playing in the series against South Africa. Like Hick, he will be judged on what he has done for England in the past, not what he does so well in county cricket, and there can be no real argument with that.

Crawley presents a more difficult case. He has class and elegance, even if he sometimes appears to live in a bubble, remote from what is going on around him. He admits that he has had his chance, and not

made the most of it. The only way back is through weight of runs, which Hussain and Ramprakash managed, when they were sent back to their counties. It's entirely up to Crawley.

This was a notable innings because he has lost 10lb in the last week, after going down with gastro-enteritis during the game at Northampton, which forced him to miss the Sunday fixture. He was troubled outside his off stump by Trescott, who is becoming a thoroughly respectable medium pacer, and who eventually snuffed him at second slip when Rose drifted the ball away.

McKewen, who made a triple hundred for the second time recently, almost made it through the morning, falling to the last ball of the session. Flintoff, the mighty 20-year-old, immediately took 14 off a Mushtaq over, including a six over long-on, before Trescott swung one into him, defeating his forward lunge. When Crawley was out Lancashire were 155 for six, and not certain of taking a single bonus point.

Hegg, first of all with Wasim and finally with Martin, enabled them to take a couple, and a perky little innings it was by the popular stumper. Lancashire were left with 18 overs at the Somerset openers, which failed to yield a wicket, though Bowler offered Flintoff a chance at slip. There's plenty of good cricket left in this match.

For the second successive day, persistent heavy rain deprived Cambridge University and Derbyshire of any play at Fenner's.

With the best part of three first-class fixtures lost to the weather, Cambridge are worried about lack of cricket with the University match at Lord's, starting on July 1, drawing ever nearer.



Mark Alleyne, the Gloucestershire captain, on-drives against Warwickshire yesterday at the County Ground

Glamorgan yet to regain stride

CARDIFF (first day of four: Glamorgan won toss): Worcestershire have scored 241 for eight wickets against Glamorgan

By RICHARD HOBSON

THERE is nothing like success to raise expectations. After securing the championship for the first time since 1969, Glamorgan have yet to suggest that they will emulate that achievement, and if an absurdly critical letter in the Western Mail yesterday is a guide, the natives are twitching.

How much of the success last season should be attributed to Duncan Fletcher, the coach, is impossible to quantify, but the widespread disappointment when he chose not to return this summer provides an answer of sorts. So, too, does confirmation that Glamorgan want Fletcher

back in 1999. In Britain to watch part of the Test series between England and South Africa after completing coaching duties with Western Province, he was on the players' balcony at Sophia Gardens yesterday and is likely to open negotiations with Glamorgan before the end of next week.

Fletcher would have been pleased with the efforts of his former charges, though only to a point. Darren Thomas, who made swift progress under his tutelage in 1997, bowled with pace and good sense. Against that, the way that the Worcestershire lower order engineered a recovery from 63 for five on a green pitch must have caused less satisfaction.

Had Waqar Younis been closer to his best it is hard to

imagine that the visitors would have reached 150. He received an injection to ease a nagging problem in his right elbow and his figures of two for 36 give no impression of the way he persistently strayed down the leg side. Fourteen of those runs arrived in a single over when Abdul Hafeez clipped him to the boundary three times. To compound Waqar's problems, he limped off suffering from cramp after delivering a single ball of a new spell near the close.

Watkin and Thomas struck a more effective, consistent line. Thomas surprised Hick with his bounce to induce a thick edge to third slip and, after Shaw accounted for Haynes with an acrobatic take down the leg side,

Moody presented the wicket-keeper with a more routine catch. Hafeez was undone by a slower ball from Watkin, which meant that Worcestershire had lost four wickets for 20 runs inside nine overs.

The remainder of a day's play which began 75 minutes late because of rain became a drawn-out affair. On five, defined when Rhodes, on five, drove carelessly against Thomas and saw Powell spill the chance at third slip. Rhodes proceeded to compose a half-century from 84 balls. Leathdale kept him company for 18 overs in a stand of 57 before he fell before offering no stroke to Butcher, before Thomas, wobbling the ball from a full length, made similar victims of Lampitt and Illingworth. Newport offered sturdier resistance as Worcestershire ended in what might prove to be a reasonable state.

Giddins excels with six of best

By JOHN THICKNESS

THE scorecard contradicts the view: there was nothing in the conditions that accounted for Gloucestershire being out for 181 at the County Ground. The ball swung from time to time, but, in taking six for 79, his best return for Warwickshire, Ed Giddins simply bowled a great deal better than the batsmen batted.

When Warwickshire's turn came, however, at 4.51pm, Gloucestershire having experimentally postponed the start till noon hoping for late custom, a drying pitch was picking up pace and Courtney Walsh made all the batsmen hop, notably Brian Lara, for whom he seemed to find an extra yard of pace.

It was over all too soon. Walsh's partner, Mike Smith, dislodging Lara for 16 when he edged him to the wicket-keeper off a full-blooded back-foot drive. But it was a gripping contest while it lasted because, of the 36 balls Lara faced during his hour at the crease, 25 were bowled by Walsh, who produced exceptional pace and bounce for a 35-year-old fast bowler.

The Gloucestershire innings could have done service as a cautionary tale for the foolishness of betting on cricket. After the loss of Macmillan to Giddins's second ball, Wright and especially Hancock hit the ball so often in the middle of the bat that when, in the 24th over, their century stand came up, Warwickshire seemed in danger of spending the whole day in the field.

Then Brown bowled Wright and, in another seven balls, Gloucestershire lost two more wickets, both to Giddins. First, Knight brilliantly hung on to Hancock's edged drive through high at second slip, then Windows fell leg-before without offering a stroke.

Before and after lunch, Alleyne, the captain, and Hewson built a position for a possible recovery by adding 55 but, at 159, Alleyne inside-edged Welch hard into the stumps. Forty-seven minutes later, the innings was all over for only 22 more runs.

Negative Essex pay the penalty

By JACK BAILEY

CHELMSFORD (first day of four: Essex won toss): Surrey have scored 127 for four wickets against Essex

STEADY rain put an end to play after 27 overs had been bowled, but it was a session packed with incident. Blow followed counter-blow as Surrey, leading the championship table, jostled with Essex, who are propping it up.

For some time yesterday it was the underdogs who looked the better nourished, taking the first four Surrey wickets for 66, but Adam Hollis and Alistair Brown, in an unfinished partnership of 61 from 62 balls, have gone some way towards redressing the balance.

With the score rattling along at about five runs an over, Essex were reduced to a blatant piece of negative bowling, suitably punished by Mervyn Kitchen, the umpire. Paul Grayson, the slow

An innings of 78 by Stephen Fleming, the captain, was not enough to prevent New Zealand from conceding a 13-run lead to Sri Lanka in the third Test in Colombo yesterday.

left-arm bowler, bowled over the wicket on or wide of the leg stump and was called twice for wides on the basis of negative bowling.

Under the new playing condition, the ball does not have to be all that wide, provided the umpire sees it as a deliberate and negative tactic. Kitchen said: "I drew an imaginary line in my mind and anything that passed to the leg side of that, I called."

As a result, Essex lost four runs. To resort to such tactics before lunch on the first day is anti-cricket. To do so when the first four batsmen are back in the pavilion is bizarre. Admittedly, Surrey had scored pretty freely, but wickets had also been lost and attack should have been the Essex watchword.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE. By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT. Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 9 - MiniBridge 4.

Diagram of final position for the bridge lesson. Shows a 4x4 grid with letters and numbers representing cards and positions.

WORD-WATCHING. By Philip Howard. KAMISH: a. Ritual haircutting, b. Shaker pottery, c. A reed. HEROLA: a. An antelope, b. Virgin olive oil, c. A demi-halo.

WINNING MOVE. By Raymond Keene. White to play. This position is from the game Schwicker - Boudre, France, 1951. How did White break through on the kingside?

KEENE on CHESS. By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT. League conclusion. Today I conclude my coverage of the Four Nations Chess League.

Diagram of final position for the chess league conclusion. Shows a chessboard with pieces and their positions.

Correction. The piece on h4 in yesterday's diagram of the final position should have been a pawn. Essex v Surrey. CHELMSFORD (first day of four: Essex won toss): Surrey have scored 127 for four wickets against Essex.

By Raymond Keene. White to play. This position is from the game Schwicker - Boudre, France, 1951. How did White break through on the kingside?

Yorkshire hearts lifted by Wood's strokeplay

HEADINGLEY (first day of four: Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire have scored 242 for three wickets against Hampshire

By JOHN STERN

THE sight of the injured Darren Gough, a rucksack slung over his shoulder, sauntering across a deserted outfield in jeans and sweatshirt, like a student on the way to college, seemed to sum up the mood here yesterday morning.

Yorkshire's Benson and Hedges Cup defeat by Essex was still fresh in the mind and the county was without not only Gough but also Craig White, with a back injury, and Darren Lehmann, who suffered an adverse reaction to painkilling injections for his own back problem.

The start was delayed for 90 minutes but by late afternoon there were smiles on Yorkshire faces. The sun had come out at last. Michael Vaughan

had made his fourth consecutive first-class half-century and Matthew Wood, 21, was well on his way to a second championship century of the season, a target he reached three overs before the close, his second fifty taking only 83 balls.

Vaughan's dismissal soon after tea, caught down the leg side by Aymes off Udal for 86, was a minor setback on a day when the Yorkshire captain, David Byas, was pleased with the way his young batsmen coped in the absence of so much experience.

Vaughan applied himself in tricky conditions while Wood, after his partnership of 122 for the third wicket with Vaughan had come to an end, played with rare gusto. Having reached fifty off 123 balls, Wood then hit six consecutive balls that seemed away from one over from Stephenson and

Wood puts Durham on course

four, including three lovely cover drives, in the first over of McLean's third spell.

McLean came in for more punishment in his next over as Wood hooked him off his eyebrows, as Botham used to do, and flashed a cut to the point boundary next ball to move into the nineties.

Having seen his first two partners go cheaply - McGrath chopped the ball on to his stumps and Byas was caught at square leg - it was imperative for Vaughan to dig in. He did precisely that, surviving a number of appeals for caught behind and one for a leg-side stumping, as well as a bang on a finger.

It was fitting that Hartley, 38, returning to Headingley for the first time since the end of his 13-year association with Yorkshire, should take the first wicket. He bowled well and produced two unplayable balls that seemed away from his former captain.

Wood puts Durham on course

THIS was not the ideal day to experiment with an 8pm finish. No play was possible before 5pm and the weather that pertained for much of the day would, in all probability, have deterred a number of people from coming.

When play did begin, Durham made the most of putting Northamptonshire in. They had the upper order out for 81, three batsmen going to Wood's medium pace while Betts gained his 32nd championship scalp of the season.

Wood's wickets were those of Warren, leg-before playing half forward. Bailey yorked, driving, and Curran, the captain, bowled playing round one pitched up. Loyal played on to Betts. Harmison forced Alec Swann to edge an away swinger to Speight and Ripley departed leg-before, in Foster's first over.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS. Table with columns for match, innings, batsmen, and scores. Includes matches like Worcestershire vs Glamorgan, Lancashire vs Somerset, Essex vs Surrey, etc.

Mansell trouble opening of practice. Large advertisement for Mansell's Motor Race, featuring a photo of a driver and text about a practice session.

MOTOR RACING

Mansell hits trouble on opening day of practice

BY KEVIN EASON

NIGEL MANSELL demonstrated again yesterday that he is a man who could generate controversy in an empty house. He turned up for his first day of serious work in the British Touring Car championships and was in the wars within three minutes. Mansell was on only his second lap of a rain-soaked practice session at Donington Park when his Ford Mondeo was hit from the rear by the touring car rookie, Mark Lemmer, and shunted into the gravel. Mansell was leading Lemmer's Vauxhall Vectra into the tight Goddards chicane, braking from 140mph, when Lemmer realised he could not pull up in time. Mansell was unhurt, though he complained of a sore neck and jaw, and wasted no time in letting Lemmer know where he went wrong, following him into his garage. The 1992 Formula One world champion is a friend of the Lemmer family, so the young driver was spared the full force of the famous Mansell temper. "He was very professional and apologised immediately," Mansell said. "He was very worried, because he was coming at me at a rate of knots and I thought for a moment he was going to T-bone me right in the side. He picked a spot on the back of the car and hit that. I asked him why he didn't pick a spot and then try to miss it." The only other time that Mansell raced in touring cars was in 1993 at Donington, when he was nudged from behind by Tiff Needell and famously ploughed into Starkey's Bridge at 120mph, knocking himself unconscious. "I think I had better



The Vauxhall Vectra of Lemmer shunts Mansell on only his second practice lap at Donington Park yesterday

Dowling predicts swift exit

CLAIRE DOWLING, the self-confessed granny of the golfers remaining in the British women's Amateur Championship at Little Aston, Sutton Coldfield, was predicting that she would not progress beyond the 12th hole in her third-round match with Karine Icher, of France, today. Icher, 19, from near Orleans, led the qualifiers, 14 shots ahead of Dowling, her playing partner, and made short work of her first two opponents in the matchplay stage yesterday. Dowling, 40 and now very much a part-time player, said: "She's brilliant. I've absolutely no chance. I'll be happy to get past the 10th. In the first round on Tuesday, I'd have been eight down after nine we'd been playing a match." Bear in mind, though, that Dowling used to be Claire Hourihane, winner of the Irish Championship five times. British strokeplay

champion in 1986, four times chosen for the Curtis Cup and twice a semi-finalist in this event. Yesterday, with the wind swirling wickedly, she defeated Eleanor Pilgrim, the 20-year-old former Welsh champion, and Garance Dilan, a talented if erratic 22-year-old from Paris. Pilgrim was being watched progress with a trio of birdies at the 13th, 14th and 15th to win 4 and 3 and eventually shook off the tenacious Dilan at the 21st hole. Dilan lost the 11th, where she hoicked her second shot left into the trees, and the 12th, where she hit a better second but with enough draw to send it left into the water by the hole. She played the last five holes in one under par, though, winning the 14th with a birdie three and the 17th with a par four to take the match into extra holes. At the second extra hole, a 400-yard par-four, where Dowling had taken six every time she had played it previously this week, the Irishwoman holed a 12-foot putt to level with a par and it was on to the 21st. Dilan's 43rd hole of the day. Perhaps a little weary, she produced another slinging hook but still managed to reach the green in three at this monstrous par-five. Dowling took her time over her third shot, deliberating with Peter, her husband and caddy, who is a judge. They decided on a four-iron and it was the right verdict. Dowling hit it to 12 feet and two putts proved too much for the gallant Dilan. Alison Rose relinquished her title after losing to Fiona Brown, of Cheshire, who was three under par and won 6 and 5. "I was sick of messing about," Brown, who played only 26 holes in two rounds yesterday, said. Elaine Ratcliffe, the English champion, struggled on the greens in the afternoon and just beat Janet Lamb, of Wiltshire, by one hole, winning the 18th with a par four.



Finger of blame: Mansell explains the incident in which his Ford Mondeo was hit and forced on to the gravel

EQUESTRIANISM

Impressive Belgian stakes early claim

UNDISTURBED by the shrieks of the resident peacocks parading in front of Bramham House, Constantijn van Rijckevorsel, of Belgium, produced a spectacular dressage test on his Australian-bred Otis to go into the lead at the end of a damp opening day at the Bramham international horse trials in Yorkshire (Jenny MacArthur writes). Annabelle May, of Britain, and the French-bred Jolli Good Times, are in second place. Heidi Antikatzidis, of Greece, is third on Michaelmas. Van Rijckevorsel may not be able to dislodge in the cross country tomorrow, which she describes as "very

RUGBY LEAGUE

Edwards ruled out of Wigan encounter

SHAUN EDWARDS, the Bradford Bulls scrum half, will miss the Super League match against Wigan, his former club, today. Edwards, who played with pain-killers in last Sunday's 28-0 defeat at Warrington, was ruled out yesterday with a sternum injury. Matt Calland, the centre, will also miss the match with a back injury and James Lowes, the hooker, remains a serious doubt after being unable to train. Matthew Elliott, the coach, is already without long-term injury victims. Paul Anderson, Warren Jowitt and Danny Peacock. John Monie, the Wigan coach, is expecting his side's trip to Odsal to spur the Bulls

SPORT IN BRIEF

Chicago take step closer to title

BASKETBALL: Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen led the Chicago Bulls to an 86-52 victory over the Utah Jazz on Wednesday night. The defending champions lead the series 3-1 and are one win away from their sixth National Basketball Association title. Jordan scored 34 points and Pippen 28 while Utah replied principally through Karl Malone with 21 points. The Bulls can wrap up their sixth championship of the decade at home tonight in what could be the final match for Jordan, Pippen and Phil Jackson, the Chicago coach.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Lionel Taylor, the head coach of the England Monarchs, resigned yesterday after the side recorded its fifth consecutive losing NFL Europe season. The Monarchs only avoided setting a new low by winning their final two games for a 3-7 record.

GYMNASTICS: The Malaysian Commonwealth Games organising committee has overridden the Commonwealth gymnastics association's wishes for teams of five by stipulating that only four gymnasts per country can take part at Kuala Lumpur in the Commonwealth Games in September.

GOLF: A late decision has been made to include the Madeira Island Open next week as one of the qualifying events for places in the Open championship at Royal Birkdale next month. The event was originally left off because it is up against the US Open.

CYCLING: Yvonne McGregor has withdrawn from the women's national 25-mile time-trial championship on Sunday, an event she has won for the last three years, in an attempt to qualify for the world 3,000 metres pursuit title at Bordeaux in August.

GOLF: Tony Jacklin, runner-up to Bob Shearer, of Australia, in the Jersey Seniors Open last week, is looking for his first European Seniors Tour victory when he tees off in the De Vere Hotels Seniors Classic title at Belton Woods, near Grantham, today.

POLO: Kerry Packer's squad, Ellerton, beat Jerudong Park 10-8 in the semi-finals of the Queen's Cup at Smith's Lawn, Great Windsor Park, yesterday. Ellerton: 1, J. Barn (1), 2, A. Camacho (10), 3, G. Pines (10), 4, J. Dixon (10), 5, N. Deacon (10), 6, M. Hogg (10), 7, A. Hogg (10), 8, P. Brock (10), 9, J. Braham (10).

CAMBRIDGE MAY RACES

AMUSEMENT was provided on the Cam yesterday by Trinity Hall II at the head of the fourth division. They failed to take First Post Corner and went up the bank; their boat snapped in half, leaving the stern pair to row back to the boathouse in a six-rigger boat, while the bow pair carried the rest across Diton Meadows.

Table with columns for names and race results, including names like JESUS, TRINITY HALL, MAGDALENE, etc.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for CRICKET, CYCLING, EQUESTRIANISM, GOLF, BASEBALL, listing various sports events and results.

TENNIS

Table with columns for SPEEDWAY, PREMIER LEAGUE, ELITE LEAGUE, listing various sports events and results.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

Table with columns for PUBLIC NOTICES, LEGAL NOTICES, listing various legal notices and public announcements.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

Table with columns for LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES, listing various legal notices and public announcements.

THE WORLD CUP TODAY

GROUP C

SAUDI ARABIA v DENMARK

FROM DAVID POWELL

Denmark, seeking to make amends for their disappointing Euro 96, kick off group C against Saudi Arabia this afternoon with optimism that they can at least reach the quarter-finals. If they are to succeed in that belief, much will depend on whether the Laudrup brothers can rise to the occasion and on whether Peter Schmeichel is at his best.

On the face of it, this appears to be one of the tightest of the eight groups and Saudi Arabia, though they are the outsiders, are not without some hope of reaching the second round. Their competent performance in holding England to a goalless draw at Wembley three weeks ago was decorated by flashes of inspiration and we should not forget that it was one of their number, Saad Al-Owairan, who scored the goal of the tournament at the 1994 finals.

Al-Owairan, described as the "Desert Pelé", the "Desert Maradona" and the "Desert Ronaldo", depending on who you listen to, went on an electrifying run and produced a clinical finish to beat Belgium 1-0. More recently, Saudi Arabia lost 6-0 to Norway and Denmark will hope to exploit their vulnerability.

Behind Denmark's optimism is the fact that they qualified above Croatia in a group that also included a useful Greece team. Brian Laudrup will be hoping to continue the form that made him Denmark's top scorer in qualifying, while his brother, Michael, is one of the tournament's senior players, celebrating his 34th birthday next week.

SAUDI ARABIA (probable: 4-4-2): M. Al-Jabir, M. Al-Khaldi, A. Zubairwan, A. Shurani, F. Amin, H. Sulaiman, S. Al-Owairan, K. Al-Muwallid, F. Al-Muwallid, S. Al-Jaber. **DENMARK** (probable: 4-3-3): P. Schmeichel, M. Schjoberg, M. Rieper, J. Høgh, S. Colting, T. Helveg, M. Joergensen, A. Nilsen, M. Laudrup, E. Sars, B. Laudrup. Referee: J. A. Casaroli (Argentina).

COVERAGE: Television: BBC1 (from 4.10pm). Radio: Radio 5 Live (from 4pm), Talk Radio (from 4.30pm). Kick-off: 4.30pm.

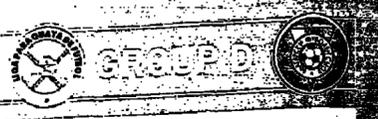
FRANCE v SOUTH AFRICA

France awaits finishing touch, page 51
FRANCE (probable: 4-3-1-2): F. Barthez, L. Thuram, L. Blanc, M. Deshayes, B. Lizarazu, D. Deschamps, E. Palet, Z. Zidane, Y. Drognon, S. Guenzler, C. Dugrenot.
SOUTH AFRICA (probable: 4-4-2): H. Vonk, W. Jackson, M. Pheko, L. Radebe, D. Nyathi, H. Mkhonto, J. Moshoeu, B. Augustino, G. Fortune, D. McCarthy, P. Maseko. Referee: M. Pires (Brazil). **COVERAGE:** Television: ITV (from 7.50pm). Radio: Radio 5 Live (from 7.20pm), Talk Radio (from 4.30pm). Kick-off: 5pm.

IN THE NET

The Times World Cup 98
<http://www.the-times.co.uk/worldcup>
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Sky
<http://www.sky.co.uk/worldcup/>
Football 365
<http://www.football365.co.uk>

Sunday July 12	Final	8pm	Stade de France	tba, R5L/Talk	FINAL
Saturday July 11	Third-place play-off	8pm	Parc des Princes	tba, R5L/Talk	THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF
July 9 & 10 REST DAYS					
Wednesday July 8	Winner 9 v Winner 12	8pm	Stade de France	tba, R5L/Talk	SEMIFINALS
Tuesday July 7	Winner 10 v Winner 11	8pm	Marseille	tba, R5L/Talk	SEMIFINALS
July 5 & 6 REST DAYS					
Saturday July 4	11. Winner 6 v Winner 8	3.30pm	Marseille	tba, R5L/Talk	QUARTER-FINALS
	12. Winner 5 v Winner 7	8pm	Lyons	tba, R5L/Talk	
Friday July 3	9. Winner 1 v Winner 3	3.30pm	Stade de France	tba, R5L/Talk	QUARTER-FINALS
	10. Winner 2 v Winner 4	8pm	Nantes	tba, R5L/Talk	
July 1 & 2 REST DAYS					
Tuesday June 30	7. Winner 6 v Runner-up H	3.30pm	Bordeaux	tba, R5L/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
	8. Winner H v Runner-up G	8pm	St Etienne	tba, R5L/Talk	
Monday June 29	5. Winner F v Runner-up E	3.30pm	Montpellier	tba, R5L/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
	6. Winner E v Runner-up F	8pm	Toulouse	tba, R5L/Talk	
Sunday June 28	3. Winner C v Runner-up D	3.30pm	Lens	tba, R5L/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
	4. Winner D v Runner-up C	8pm	Stade de France	tba, R5L/Talk	
Saturday June 27	1. Winner B v Runner-up A	3.30pm	Marseille	tba, R5L/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
	2. Winner A v Runner-up B	8pm	Parc des Princes	tba, R5L/Talk	
Friday June 26	Group H Japan v Jamaica	3pm	Lyons	ITV	GROUP STAGE
	Group H Argentina v Croatia	3pm	Bordeaux	ITV, R5L/Talk	
	Group G Romania v Tunisia	8pm	Stade de France	BBC	
	Group G Colombia v England	8pm	Lens	BBC, R5L/Talk	
Thursday June 25	Group E Belgium v South Korea	3pm	Parc des Princes	BBC, R5L	GROUP STAGE
	Group E Holland v Mexico	3pm	St Etienne	BBC, R5L/Talk	
	Group F Germany v Iran	8pm	Montpellier	ITV, R5L	
	Group F United States v Yugoslavia	8pm	Nantes	ITV	
Wednesday June 24	Group C France v Denmark	3pm	Lyons	BBC, R5L/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group C South Africa v Saudi Arabia	3pm	Bordeaux	BBC, R5L	
	Group D Spain v Bulgaria	8pm	Lens	ITV, R5L	
	Group D Nigeria v Paraguay	8pm	Toulouse	ITV	
Tuesday June 23	Group B Italy v Austria	3pm	Stade de France	ITV, R5L/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group B Chile v Cameroon	3pm	Nantes	ITV, R5L	
	Group A Scotland v Morocco	8pm	St Etienne	BBC, R5L/Talk	
	Group A Brazil v Norway	8pm	Marseille	BBC	
Monday June 22	Group G Colombia v Tunisia	4.30pm	Montpellier	BBC, R5L/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group G Romania v England	8pm	Toulouse	ITV, R5L/Talk	
Sunday June 21	Group F Germany v Yugoslavia	1.30pm	Lens	BBC, R5L	GROUP STAGE
	Group H Argentina v Jamaica	4.30pm	Parc des Princes	ITV, R5L/Talk	
	Group F United States v Iran	8pm	Lyons	BBC, R5L	
Saturday June 20	Group H Japan v Croatia	1.30pm	Nantes	ITV, R5L	GROUP STAGE
	Group E Belgium v Mexico	4.30pm	Bordeaux	BBC, R5L/Talk	
	Group E Holland v South Korea	8pm	Marseille	ITV, R5L	
Friday June 19	Group D Nigeria v Bulgaria	4.30pm	Parc des Princes	ITV	GROUP STAGE
	Group D Spain v Paraguay	8pm	St Etienne	BBC, R5L/Talk	
Thursday June 18	Group C South Africa v Denmark	4.30pm	Toulouse	ITV, Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group C France v Saudi Arabia	8pm	Stade de France	BBC, R5L	
Wednesday June 17	Group B Chile v Austria	4.30pm	St Etienne	BBC, Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group B Italy v Cameroon	8pm	Montpellier	ITV, R5L	
Tuesday June 16	Group A Scotland v Norway	4.30pm	Bordeaux	ITV, R5L/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group A Brazil v Morocco	8pm	Nantes	ITV, R5L	
Monday June 15	Group G England v Tunisia	1.30pm	Marseille	BBC, R5L/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group G Romania v Colombia	4.30pm	Lyons	ITV, R5L/Talk	
	Group F Germany v United States	8pm	Parc des Princes	BBC, R5L	
Sunday June 14	Group H Argentina v Japan	1.30pm	Toulouse	ITV, R5L	GROUP STAGE
	Group F Yugoslavia v Iran	4.30pm	St Etienne	BBC, R5L	
	Group H Jamaica v Croatia	8pm	Lens	ITV, R5L	
Saturday June 13	Group D Spain v Nigeria	1.30pm	Nantes	BBC, R5L/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group E South Korea v Mexico	4.30pm	Lyons	ITV	
	Group E Holland v Belgium	8pm	Stade de France	BBC, R5L	
Friday June 12	Group D Paraguay v Bulgaria	1.30pm	Montpellier	ITV	GROUP STAGE
	Group C Saudi Arabia v Denmark	4.30pm	Lyons	BBC, Talk	
	Group C France v South Africa	8pm	Marseille	ITV, R5L	
Group B Italy 2 (Vieri 10; R. Baggio 85, pen) Chile 2 (Salas 45, 50) 31,800					
Group B Cameroon v Austria 8pm Toulouse BBC, R5L					
Group A Brazil 2 (César Sampaio 4; Boyd 73, og) Scotland 1 (Collins 38, pen) 80,000					
Group A Morocco 2 (Hadjji 38; Hadda 59) Norway 2 (Chippo 45, og; Eggen 61) 29,750					



PARAGUAY v BULGARIA

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA

Most players come to a World Cup in the hope of making their name, but a few find themselves trying to rescue a reputation. José Luis Chilavert, of Paraguay, is in the latter category. Sympathy is constrained by the fact that his difficulties arise because, imprudently, he has been known to describe himself as the best goalkeeper in the world.

Some, taking him at his word, wondered if he might keep a clean sheet against Bulgaria, Spain and Nigeria. That now seems highly unlikely. The audacity of a goalkeeper who takes free kicks and has scored five times for Paraguay is charming, but his self-confidence has recently appeared to be a misconception. His side has lost in each of the previous four matches leading up to this tournament.

The worst of the defeats came in Eindhoven, two weeks ago, when Holland won 5-1, leaving Chilavert looking distinctly mediocre. Paulo César Carpegiani, their Brazilian coach, became a national hero by taking the side to the World Cup and finishing ahead of Colombia and Chile in the qualifying process. Now, however, it seems that the team has exhausted its potential.

Paraguay's main hope this afternoon in Montpellier is that they will prove finer and more resilient than Bulgaria, whose team is alarmingly familiar. Several of the figures who were in the side that finished fourth in the 1994 World Cup are still around and age has sent them into decline. Nowadays, Hristo Stoichkov throws his tantrums with CSKA Sofia rather than Barcelona. At 31, Krassimir Balakov is a year younger, but his career is only reaching its peak; his expertise at free kicks should give Chilavert plenty of scope to redeem himself.

PARAGUAY (probable: 4-4-2): J. Chilavert, F. Arce, C. Ayala, C. Pineda, D. Carrizo, R. Acosta, E. Aquilino, M. Benítez, J. C. Eraso, J. Cardozo, C. Ramirez.
BULGARIA (probable: 4-3-3): Z. Zhekov, R. Kishinev, T. Ivanov, I. Petrov, I. Yordanov, Z. Yankov, E. Kostadinov, H. Stoichkov, K. Balakov, I. Bero, S. Stoev. Referee: H. Al-Jed (Saudi Arabia). **COVERAGE:** Television: ITV (from 1.15pm). Kick-off: 1.30pm.

EN PASSANT

Reggae bytes: The Jamaica World Cup squad is being assisted by a computer. René Simoes, the coach, said yesterday that a friend of his had developed a smart software package. "You can even ask the computer questions," Simoes said. Such as? "Machine, who generally passes the ball to Davor Suker [the Croatia striker]? And it'll answer which players pass him the ball and from which side," Simoes said. Watch out, the Jamaica midfield—computers never lie.

Blind faith: A Scottish punter from London has invested £2,000 at 350-1 on Scotland to play Brazil in the final. Another, from Fife, has had £1,000 at 150-1 on Scotland to win the World Cup. Madness.

Brazil	110021	3	Chile	101022	1	Denmark		Bulgaria		Belgium		Germany		Colombia		Argentina
Morocco	101022	1	Italy	101022	1	France		Nigeria		Holland		Iran		England		Croatia
Norway	101022	1	Austria	000000	0	Saudi Arabia		Paraguay		Mexico		United States		Romania		Jamaica
Scotland	100112	0	Cameroon	000000	0	South Africa		Spain		South Korea		Yugoslavia		Tunisia		Japan

Lack of a France finish touch to the na

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WORLD CUP 98

Lack of a striker causes concern for hosts while South Africa put their faith in youth

France need finishing touch to lift the nation

By Rob Hughes

France, the founders of the Coupe du Monde but who have never won it, may be approaching their hour of destiny...

It should be a victory but, as Morocco have demonstrated, underestimate African teams at your peril. It would be a triumph if France can rise to expectancy and not be cowed by it...

Such Gallic rhetoric weighs on Zidane and Djorkaeff, on Blanc, Desailly and Deschamps. They can create and they know how to destroy...

It is as if the population will resist their own creation until it is held aloft in French hands. The lampooning of Jaquet, the coach who will resign at the end of the tournament...

Though Bernard Tapie bought the European Cup for Marseilles - and went to prison for buying it - he maintains a Robin Hood-like persona here. He did wrong, but he did it for Marseilles...

Tonight there comes a Frenchman charged with the duty of puncturing the faint balloon of French euphoria. Philippe Troussier, the South Africa coach who is soon to join Sheffield Wednesday...

Troussier is a pragmatic man. He coaches teams to win, he has been a mercenary working the African continent for Ivory Coast, Morocco, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and now the Republic of South Africa...

Depending on how much he trusts youth, Troussier can license Benedict McCarthy, 20, from the Ajax nursery, to shoot down France. In the Nations Cup, he scored for fun, goals of uninhibited joy...

Deschamps is dubbed Little Big Boss around the retreat of Clairefontaine, the schooling ground of

French football, which has eight practice pitches. One of them, the Michel Platini pitch, is exclusively for the use of the national team. On the carefully tended turf, Deschamps, dismissed so arrogantly by Eric Cantona as a water-carrier...

Zidane, the son of an Algerian immigrant and schooled in football in the streets of the 16th arrondissement of Marseilles, has the quick feet and sharp brain, but Deschamps organises his freedom to use them. Deschamps has won all things - bar one - in a career that began at schoolboy level 16 years ago...

At training on Tuesday, Deschamps seemed to pull groups of players - experienced men, hardened in Italy's Serie A - to one side and to fill them with his keen knowledge of the game. He talks just as readily to the media, talks of the way so many of the France team have learnt in Italy that the first priority is to win, then, perhaps, to have style...

With France, it is almost the reverse. Look at the captain and you imagine that he is journeying to a day at the office. He will do his best, he will let nothing pass, but it is undermonstrative talk. Similarly, the stopover hotel in Provence is unassuming, its comforts are homely...

This was the hotel that Les Blues of Platini, Giresse and Tigana used in 1984 when, with benevolent refereeing and a midfield maestro who could score where the forwards failed, they conquered Europe. Zidane, when the force is with him, is the closest match-winner to Platini...

If Dugarry, or anyone, can score five goals during the tournament, France will not be far from sparing Jaquet a drubbing on the satirical puppet show, Les Guignols de L'Info. Jaquet, in the Alf Ramsey mould of winning few friends, came out of character as did Ramsey in 1966, prophesying: "On July 13, I say goodbye after a victory lap the night before in the Stade de France, after the French team has been crowned champion."



Deschamps, the France captain, is the man his side will look to for inspiration in Marseilles tonight



The men charged with shooting France to World Cup glory, from the left, Dugarry, Zidane and Djorkaeff

Bright spark saved from mean streets

Inigo Gilmore profiles the newest shooting star to come out of Africa

With breathtaking skill, the wiry 20-year-old volleyed crisply from the edge of the penalty area and, as the ball struck the net, smiled mischievously, turning his eyes heavenwards to cheers from the crowd lining the pitch at the training ground...

Back in February, when South Africa turned up in Burkina Faso for the African Nations Cup, McCarthy was virtually unknown. But after helping the team to the final, scoring seven goals along the way, he became a national hero.

As he dances around the training ground in Vichy, where the South Africa team are based, he makes for compulsive viewing. Nicknamed Duracell, because of his copper-tinted hair and non-stop running, McCarthy shows that he not only packs a powerful shot in both feet, he talks a good game, too.

"We're going to put up a hell of a fight," McCarthy promised.

"France have got some big-name players and we respect them. France can handle it how they want - but they must realise that if one of our players gets an opportunity, the ball is going to be in the back of the net."

McCarthy's confidence is infectious, a product of both his environment and faith in his own talent. He was brought up in Hannover Park, on the Cape Flats, near Cape Town, where many of his contemporaries joined gangs who control the local drugs trade. His mother would insist Benni stayed inside the yard and played football with his two brothers when she went out to work...

McCarthy began playing in the second division at the age of 17 but really announced himself in March last year, when he scored two goals for Cape Town Spurs in a 2-1 victory over the Premier League glamour club, Kaizer Chiefs. He subsequently joined Ajax, and while not often in the starting line-up, he has scored regularly as a substitute. Yet for all his newfound fame he has not forgotten his roots and is aware that he is now seen as a role model by many black South Africans.

"When I was growing up I used to see people fight, shooting each other in the street," he said. "If I can get out of that situation then I'm sure anyone else can. I'm no different than anyone else, it's just how you handle it."

McCarthy is full of praise for the work that President Mandela has done in promoting sport as a vehicle for reconciliation. He believes that success in the African Nations Cup, where South Africa lost to Egypt in the final, has contributed to that aim and hopes the World Cup will help to unite the whole population around a sport still regarded by many white South Africans as a black game.

"After the African Nations Cup everyone was obsessed with the national team," he said. "It brought even more people together to start supporting us."

That support, McCarthy said, is an important source of inspiration to him and the team called Bafana Bafana (The Boys). The loss, through injury, of the vice-captain, John Moelet, in a warm-up game has been a blow, but with experienced players such as Lucas Radebe, of Leeds United, the former Leeds striker, Phil Masinga, who now plays for Bari, in Italy, and Mark Fish, of Bolton Wanderers, McCarthy believes that they can spring a few surprises.

"There is no jealousy in the team, we've got good players and we try to motivate each other. We have fun together and that makes our spirits high. That is needed in the national team."

His family and his religion are also pillars of strength for McCarthy. He explained that his habit of smiling and looking up after scoring a goal is intentional. "I say a prayer before each game and for every goal I score, even if it's in training. God blesses you with the talents you've got and he's the one who gives you the ability to score these goals. Sometimes I just smile because I enjoy the game so much."

While very much a team player, McCarthy is hoping to use the World Cup to gain recognition on a wider scale. "My aim is to get respect worldwide," he said. "I want to be recognised, like Ronaldo and Zidane. Ask anybody who they are and they will be able to tell you who they play for and what country they come from. That's the sort of name I want to build for myself."

So does he see himself as another Ronaldo? "No. I see myself as Benni McCarthy," he said, as that bright smile flashes across his face again. "I don't want to be Ronaldo."



'My aim is to get respect worldwide'

WORLD CUP DIARY

Bulgaria attract the big money

PARAGUAY against Bulgaria in group D today does not exactly set the pulse racing but punters have still got stuck in. A Mediterranean client with William Hill has wagered £100,000, the company's first six-figure tournament bet, on a Bulgaria victory at 6-5, which would net him £120,000. Ladbrokes have José Luis Chilavert, the extrovert Paraguayan goalkeeper, at 20-1 to score the first goal and 100-1 for a hat-trick.

least one World Cup game, and possibly two, in Nantes, the local authorities thought that they should create their own beach to entertain their visitors. So they have made one, for games of both sports by visitors and local residents. Food is usually sacrosanct in France, but not it is feared during the World Cup. Six chefs in Rouen are so concerned that their regular clients will remain at home rather than dine out that they are offering a special incentive in their restaurants. The six, including Gilles Tournadre, whose restaurant, Gill, has two stars in the Guide Michelin, are offering 180 francs (£18) to one diner in each party of four.

The Football Association has been criticised for its poor public relations in previous World Cups but the governing body has learnt its lesson. The England team have become huge favourites with the inhabitants of La Baule, where their training camp is based. Fabrice Jobard, the spokesman for local tourism, said: "Before the tournament, Glenn Hoddle promised the children that they could come and watch the players in training. He kept his promise and has made everyone happy."

JOHN GOODBODY

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WORLD CUP 98

Bergkamp ready to take place on Holland bench

By JOHN GOODBODY

DENNIS BERGKAMP has recovered from the strained hamstring that kept him out of Arsenal's last matches of their Double-winning season and is expected to be on the substitutes' bench for Holland's opening game against Belgium in Paris tomorrow.

However, the English footballer of the year yesterday insisted that he was not yet fit enough to play for the whole 90 minutes. He said: "I don't feel any pain any more and it's going very well at the moment. However, this is one of the few times that I have been able to train with the rest of the squad and I don't think I can manage a full game yet. Belgium is probably too early for me but perhaps I could come on in the second half."

Holland, beaten finalists in 1974 and 1978 and fancied outsiders in the competition this year, have one serious injury worry, Frank de Boer, the captain and central defender, twisted his ankle in training on Monday and is clearly doubtful for the game against their neighbours and traditional rivals.

Georges Leekens, the Belgium coach, has decided to leave Enzo Scifo out of the team to talk Holland — just weeks after playing the veteran midfielder player into joining the squad. Scifo, 32, played in the 0-0 draw with England in Morocco last week but Leekens, keen to challenge Holland in midfield, will do without him tomorrow.

"There's no point in letting them dictate play. If we leave them the freedom of the park right up to our penalty box we'll get into trouble. We have to go to take the fight to them," Leekens said.

Gordan Vidovic, recovering from a groin strain, is Belgium's only slight doubt but has been named in the side.

Sheffield Wednesday yesterday insisted that they are still searching for a manager although Philip Troussier, the

South Africa coach, is claiming that he has been offered the job. David Richards, the Wednesday chairman, said that his club was still interviewing candidates to replace Ron Atkinson, whose contract was not renewed.

Richards said: "We want the best person for Wednesday and we will keep interviewing until we decide on the one that we want. However, we have had such an influx of good candidates that we need to look at people now." Troussier is among the people to whom Richards has spoken.

Graham Mackrell, the club's general manager, said: "We are not going to be put under pressure by external forces. We will make the appointment when we are ready."

As countries make their final preparations for their opening games, allegations have been flying over spying missions by photographers and officials of rival teams.

"If someone like Bora [Milutinovic, the Nigeria coach] saw what we were going to do, he would immediately work to cancel it."

French police removed four photographers as they tried to watch a closed session of the Spain squad.

Germany will certainly be without Steffen Freund, their defensive mid-fielder, for their opening game against the United States in Paris on Monday. A pulled calf muscle means that Freund may also not be available for the second match, against Yugoslavia in Lens, on June 21.

Freund suffered torn knee ligaments in Germany's semi-final win over England in the 1996 European championship and was out of action for nearly 18 months. When he returned to the national team for a friendly against Nigeria last April, he described it as "the happiest day of my life except for when my son was born".

Germany will certainly be without Steffen Freund, their defensive mid-fielder, for their opening game against the United States in Paris on Monday. A pulled calf muscle means that Freund may also not be available for the second match, against Yugoslavia in Lens, on June 21.

That wasn't what happened. They got one of the goals from a corner kick and Tom Boyd was unlucky enough to see the ball come off him for the own goal that decided the game. Instead of thinking that the defeat was

Two Croatians were "very politely asked to leave" when they turned up at a practice session for the Jamaica squad in Chaumont. They obeyed but Branko Miksa, the president of the Croatian football federation, said: "We don't want to make a big noise about this but we will send a protest to Fifa and the organising committee."

Miksa claimed that, under tournament rules, no one can be barred from an open practice, not even officials from rival teams. However, by the time, the incident is officially discussed, it will be too late. The teams meet on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Javier Clemente, the Spain coach, was also protesting about four photographers secretly entering training sessions and decided not to practise rehearsed moves before the game against Nigeria, the Olympic champions, tomorrow. "That spying stuff did me in," he said.

Even at the end, Brazil still were not happy, because they were dissatisfied with their own performance. You could put the game down as another hard-luck story for Scotland, but we have to recognise the need to improve. We must do better in the other group games, against Norway and Morocco. I don't think we applied as much pressure to Brazil as we could have done. They are a team that can be opened up.

All of us will remember the opening game of the World Cup, even if it left us feeling frustrated. We knew we were part of a huge occasion and it was a special feeling to walk out 90 minutes before the game and pick out friends and families in the stand who had come to share it with us. My mum and dad were there.

We seem to have caused a bit of a stir by coming out at that stage in kilts and full Highland costume. Given the amount of coverage that sport

gets, all of us can feel proud that we managed to keep our plan a secret. The players came up with the idea as long ago as April and it was something unusual for a very special moment in the history of Scottish football.

A lot of our fans go to the games in kilts and I suppose we were showing them that we all share the same patriotism. Of course, we cannot



Ronaldo, right, may not have scored but his changes of pace and direction created problems for Hendry. Photograph: Elise Amendola

Trying not to dwell on chance lost

The opening match of the World Cup had been the talk of Scotland for months, but no matter how much you discuss football, you can never really guess how it will turn out.

Although everybody expected that Brazil would beat us, it was still a defeat that we found hard to accept. It would have been easier if they had scored two magnificent strikes to win 2-1.

That wasn't what happened. They got one of the goals from a corner kick and Tom Boyd was unlucky enough to see the ball come off him for the own goal that decided the game. Instead of thinking that the defeat was

unavoidable, you keep on imagining how differently it could all have turned out. By half-time we had equalised and I think they were the more anxious team at the interval.

Even at the end, Brazil still were not happy, because they were dissatisfied with their own performance. You could put the game down as another hard-luck story for Scotland, but we have to recognise the need to improve. We must do better in the other group games, against Norway and Morocco. I don't think we applied as much pressure to Brazil as we could have done. They are a team that can be opened up.

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copy them too much. We have to be a bit more formal in some respects. I don't know yet if we will be getting the kilt back out for the other matches.

In some ways, the opening game was very difficult. Footballers are not used to being brought onto the pitch a quarter-of-an-hour before kick-off. Before we got as far as La Marseillaise and the national anthems of Brazil and Scotland, there were a few speeches. Apparently, they were all short, but to us they seemed endless. It added to the nerves.

The atmosphere was a bit unusual once the game got started. The lads realised later that we had been able to call to one another across the pitch. At Celtic Park or Ibrox you need to scream to make yourself understood above the roar of the crowd.

I know that Wednesday afternoon was never supposed to be like that. All the same, I think the ticket allocations have to be looked at again. I suppose that there were 65,000 neutrals at the Stade de France, because there were only around 15,000 tickets made available to Bra-

zil and Scotland. Surely it would be reasonable to give the supporters of the two teams double that amount.

Now that we have lost, I might be accused of sour grapes, but the Brazil team was not as good as I thought they might be, although they do have some very skillful players. Bebeto whipped in a terrific corner for the opening goal. John Collins and I were both trying to get to it, but in that situation it only takes a touch to score and Cesar Sampaio got it.

Ronaldo was fantastic at times as well. It's not just his actual pace. His feet are so quick that defenders are wary of making a challenge, especially when he's inside the area. Despite that, Brazil have weaknesses too. The centre backs are vulnerable and the rest of the side does not always help them out.

Gordon Durie's pace caused Aldair and Junior Baiano a lot of problems. Teams develop over a tournament, but I am wondering what will happen in the later stages when Brazil are up against the forwards from Germany or one of the other top nations at the World Cup.

CRAIG BURLEY



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A lot of our fans go to the games in kilts and I suppose we were showing them that we all share the same patriotism. Of course, we cannot

Brown not ready to surrender yet

IN DEFEAT, the future can be a comfort. Craig Brown, the Scotland manager who saw his team lose the opening match of the World Cup to Brazil on Wednesday, is not dealing in clichés when he insists on the importance of the next game, against Norway in Bordeaux. He must have suspected that group A would assume this shape.

"We do not have to refocus," he said. "Our emphasis is on qualifying for the second round. There would have been no point even in beating Brazil if we had then lost to Norway and Morocco. The draw between Norway and Morocco

was the best possible result for us. It means if we win our next two games we are definitely through. We have always looked at the series of matches as whole and, because of that, the defeat on Wednesday has done no damage to morale."

In the other match so far played on Group A, Norway and Morocco drew 2-2, also on Wednesday. "I am encouraged by the defensive frailty that both teams showed," said Brown, "even if they say that it was uncharacteristic."

If Scotland lose to Norway, they are certain to be knocked

out of the tournament and the manager now seems likely to adopt more assertive methods.

"The game will need different tactics and perhaps even some different personnel," Brown insisted. "Recently in our matches we have had to come back from a deficit. It would be nice to get ahead for a change and then let our character show. A top country like Brazil does not have to change its style, but we do sometimes."

"Morocco had some success by playing Norway at their own game and using the long

ball. It is possible that we will have to get forward more quickly as well, although it is still important to be accurate with our passing."

Norway's approach has weighed heavily on other coaches for years — and its architect may yet be granted the opportunity to test out his theories in Scotland.

Rumours have once more flared up that Egil Olsen, the Norway manager, is to become manager of Celtic in succession to the departed Wim Jansen. After eight years in charge of the national team, it is thought that he is eager to test himself with a major club.

US coach sets out to gain some respect

STEVE SAMPSON, the coach of the United States team at the World Cup, has accused his European counterparts of treating his side and players with contempt.

"When Berti Vogts [the Germany coach] walks out 20 minutes before the end of our match with Belgium, that shows a lack of respect for the United States, I believe," Sampson said yesterday.

"When Cesare Maldini [the Italy coach] talks about how Jamaica can make the World Cup and they have to struggle to qualify, that is showing a lack of respect."

Sampson acknowledged that, while his team had established a reputation in Latin America with wins over the likes of Argentina and Brazil, they had failed to make an impression against opposition in Europe. "The most important thing for us now is to earn that respect in this World Cup," Sampson said.

IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD

MARCELO SALAS (Chile)
Marcelo Salas needs little invitation to score as England (at Wembley in February) and Italy have discovered. Of his three attempts on the Italian goal yesterday the 23-year-old Chile striker scored twice and showed what Manchester United missed by declining to buy him last season. These exclusive Carling Opta statistics tell the tale of his performance in Bordeaux.

PENETRATION	
Goals	2
Attempts on target (both goals)	2
Attempts off target	1
Attempts blocked	0
Free kicks won	0
Penalties won	0

EFFICIENCY	
Successful passes in opposition half	9
Successful passes into opposition penalty area (including crosses and corners)	0
Ball given away in own half	1

DISCIPLINE		SECURITY		Minutes on pitch
Free kicks conceded	0	Tackles won	3	
Offside	1	Tackles lost	2	
Cards	0			

CARLING OPTA

Chile.

Mastro Fagnano would like to congratulate both teams on yesterday's draw. But, being Italy's numbers one beer, we still think our team is the hot one. After all, you have to look after Mastro Uno.

Good Mastro Fagnano, Italy's Numero Uno Beer.

Jammy

Hadji... make his... as king... playgr...

Matt Dickinson sees a...

Housewives protective a...

US coach sets out to gain some respect

Steve Sampson, the coach of the United States team at the World Cup, has accused his European counterparts of treating his side and players with contempt.

WORLD CUP 98

Jammy Scots conserve themselves for later glory

Rue de Lille, Paris

How confusing these Scottish people are. They are all inconsolable today, shaking their heads and muttering sentences that include the deadly phrase "the auld, auld story".

Evidently not, however. Perhaps that dire alternative, "victory or death", is just too deeply embedded in the Scottish psyche for the bare, dry oatcake ever to suffice.

they could contemplate nothing less than Tiptree double cherry conserve.

On Wednesday, the Scottish newspaper, the Daily Record, featured on its front page a highly suspicious photograph of a deep blue sky with a white cross on it—

The Scots have returned to Avignon now, of course. The Brazilians have decamped as well.

left Norway and Morocco with a point each. And meanwhile Paris (including the suburb of St-Denis) is oddly food-free until tomorrow.

For weeks I've been unable to memorise my World Cup itinerary, and I spell all this out here because I still can't take it in.

'They must put defeat behind them'

ya!" and try not to look too shifty and clueless when my eyes start swivelling.

All I do know is that my next match is in the northern town of Lens (this afternoon: Saudi Arabia v Denmark) and that I'm not going to Marseilles on Monday for England v Tunisia because I'll be at Germany v USA in Paris the same day.

TGV

Truss's Grand Voyage



I'm at Jamaica v Croatia. Which is quite a lot of information to absorb at once, actually, given that all the countries concerned are quite disparate and are each burdened (or inspired) by the hopes of millions.

Take Saudi Arabia against Denmark. Sounds all right. It could be a good match, in fact, what with Saudi Arabia's stalwart performance at Wembley recently.

Well, that's the way I do it, and the Metro is marvellous, and the air is sweet, and if I want to go and gawp at an enormous model of the World Cup trophy there's one just across the river at the Place de la Concorde.

anyway. For Germany v USA, I'm concentrating on JFK saying he is real and easy to grasp and actually very pleasant, despite the fact that my hotel room is so small I can't turn round in it.

Back with poor old Scotland, clearly they must put this defeat behind them sharpish. Being here is what matters. Being loved and supported by your friends back

home. Flying the flag, even in the firmament. They should think how well they contributed to a historic opening match and how coolly John Collins took that penalty.

Meanwhile, I'll be scanning French skies for more supernatural flags of the world. Are there any plain white flags, I wonder, with grey whisks? No, I thought not.

No news yet of the French people who witnessed it, but it's only a matter of time. "Mon dieu, it was just like The Song of Bernadette" they'll say.

LYNNE TRUSS

Hadji quick to make his mark as king of the playground

Matt Dickinson sees a sparkling talent get off to a flying start and earn lavish praise

WARY, cagey and terrified of betraying the slightest weakness, football teams begin World Cup campaigns much as children embark on their first day at school—paralysed by inhibitions and fear.

With seven goals, no red cards and a two-course feast to savour on its opening day, France 98 provided a tantalising hint that this time it could be different.

While sloppy defending—Alan Hansen must have been drooling over his BBC monitor—was responsible for many, perhaps even all, the early barrage of goals, there was offensive talent to savour.

When he twisted through the Scandinavian defence and struck a fierce drive past Frode Grodas in Montpellier on Wednesday night, it was Moustafa Hadji who told his fellow professionals "beat that", and the Moroccan's range of attacking talents suggest it will not be the last we hear of him.

"How do we stop him," was the tone of conversation among the Scottish scouts, who went away muttering about the need to mark Hadji. Judging by the ease with which he feinted past some robust Norway defenders in a pulsating 2-2 draw, it may take two or three men to do the job effectively.

Red-booted and ponytailed, the 26-year-old is a flamboyant sight, never

more so than when he has the ball at his feet, floating untroubled between the midfield and two attackers and provoking bitter exchanges among defenders who cannot work out who should be marking him.

Henning Berg, the Manchester United defender, can rarely have suffered a more taxing 90 minutes—and all this despite the fact that the Norwegians were well aware of the threat of the player from Deportivo La Coruña.

"Our manager had told us to look out for him because he was special," Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said. "I didn't realise he meant that special. He was outstanding, quite obviously the man of the match. It was just so hard to get the ball off him, and he took the goal very well."

The display will have come as less a surprise to the French audience, for it was at Nancy that Hadji made his name, having moved across from Africa as a boy when his father sought work.

Invited to represent the France Under-21 side four years ago, Hadji pledged himself instead to the country of his birth. Five goals from 43 appearances seems a meagre tally for a player with his obvious talents.

"The World Cup is always special, but this is the country where I made my name and have many friends, so it is even more so," Hadji said. "We can go into the next two games with real confidence. I am not saying either will be easy, and certainly not against Brazil because they are the world champions. But maybe we can spring a surprise."

In many eyes, they already have. But for the appalling blunders of



Hadji, the exciting Morocco striker, pointed the way to goal in emphatic fashion on the opening day

Benekri in the Morocco goal, they would have won their first game and the Norwegians might have faced ruin in a campaign for which they have such high hopes.

So set in their ways that Egil Olsen probably does not need to bother with a team talk. Norway will persevere with his direct approach. It worked in the first quarter when Flo, the outlet for their long-ball game, received quick support, but as the

Moroccans began to dominate the midfield and possession, the Chelsea forward was hopelessly isolated. Encouragement, then, for Scotland, who face Norway next week. And then it will be on to Mr Hadji.

Housewives' choice ruined by protective attitude of Keegan

Afternoon football is a strange phenomenon. It sits uneasily in the television programming, in the time usually reserved for the soaps, the chat shows, the kiddies' comic cuts and the monumentally banal that serves bored housewives.

BBC served up the first dish on Wednesday, with Scotland against Brazil, and will be crawling about the record ratings for some time yet. All those businessmen with last-minute appointments, out of the office, served them well.

Wilson still looks uncomfortable in front of the camera, despite four years with an independent network and the wealth of experience with the Beeb, and cannot stop himself from fawning when the guest from enlightening half-time chat with Glenn Hoddle, live from



the England training headquarters, was concluded indignantly. "We wish you all the best, Glenn," Wilson said. "You know that." Yuck.

Tyldesley and Keegan eased us through the match, with Tyldesley in action for the second successive day. He did the Scotland-Brazil game, too, which was shown by ITV long after midnight, and is making a strong case to take over when Brian Moore

hangs up his microphone at the end of the tournament.

His excitement level rose after each of the four goals, but acceptably so. He does not rant or rave, introduces facts when they are relevant and allows his summariser time to make a point. In that respect, Ian St John made better use of it during the Brazil match than Keegan did yesterday.

St John, though now erstwhile partner, tells it as it is. "Rivaldo's making a real meal of that," he said. "Nobody touched him. Get up."

Keegan still thinks he is a professional, sticking up for the players when they should be criticised for play-acting or committing fouls. When what was admittedly a fascinating game had finished 2-2 he passed one of the time-honoured observations: "That was a great advert for football," he said. Double yuck.

Today, BBC, with Saudi Arabia against Denmark, follow ITV, with Paraguay against Bulgaria, in the afternoon slot. Housewives everywhere will already be bored rigid.

RUSSELL KEMPSON

Arsenal rebuff Torricelli

By DAVID MADDOCK

MORENO TORRICELLI may have produced some impressive performances to get himself in the Italy World Cup squad, but his qualities are still not sufficient to interest Arsenal.

Torricelli has been linked with Newcastle United and Middlesbrough, but his response as he prepared for the game against Chile last night was swift. "I am not keen on joining Middlesbrough. In fact, Arsenal are the only club who are interested in me that I am prepared to join," he said.

Arsenal's interest was news to Arsene Wenger, the manager. He responded to the Juventus defender's comments by insisting that he has no interest in the player.

Torricelli could be on the move to Britain, though, because Glasgow Rangers are keen on signing him and have the money to tempt him. Graeme Souness, the Benfica manager, is keen to take Michael Thomas from Liverpool on a free transfer. Souness took Thomas to Anfield from Arsenal and he said: "He has experience and

would do a good job for us here. I would be very interested in bringing him over."

Martin O'Neill will today decide if he is to leave Leicester City for Everton after a meeting in France, where he is working as a television analyst, with Rodney Walker, the Leicester chairman. Everton have courted O'Neill for weeks, and it seems that they may finally get their man.

Lineker adds golden touch to past glories

Nick Szczepanik reviews some of the World Cup books on offer at present

With a few exceptions, most people's World Cup memories are of great goals and their scorers, and England's greatest goal-scorer of recent years, Gary Lineker, has his name on one of the best of the crop of books brought out for France 98.

Gary Lineker's Golden Boots, by Lineker and Stan Hey, which accompanies the BBC series of the same name, ranges far beyond its obvious remit of tracking down and retrieving the golden moments of his fellow winners of the prize awarded to the top scorer in each tournament, which Lineker claimed in 1986.

There are also interviews with the likes of Ferenc Puskas and Carlos Alberto ("people still call me Captain") as well as lesser-known names from the history of the competition. Arranged geographically rather than chronologically, Lineker's book whets the appetite for the tournament far more than any number of statistics, wallcharts and maps of stadiums ever could.

That is not to say that there are no worthy entries among the more conventional guides and histories. Two retrospectives stand above the rest. The Complete Book of the World Cup by Cris Freddi, gives match-by-match histories of each tournament, with complete team listings and an overview of each competition.

The updated version of Brian Glanville's long-established classic, The Story of the World Cup, is not so lavishly illustrated, nor so statistically exhaustive, but offers a more informed, not to say opinionated, view. While every game is also covered here, the key games are given more weight.

World Cup 98—A Complete Championship Guide, by Glen Phillips and Tim Oidham, attempts to marry guide and history. The sections on individual countries are its strength, with the nations' paths to qualification accompanying a tactical analysis of the team but, not surprisingly, it falls short of the books by Freddi or Glanville on the historical side.

"Official Licensed Product" usually translates as "bland and uncontroversial", and few of the World Cup books bearing those words will alter that view. Less provocative than an Auto Windscreens Shield final

programme, the Official Team England World Cup Squad Book and the Fifa World Cup Book are anodyne, unexciting efforts.

There are more adventurous formats, however. The Official England and Scotland World Cup Supporters' Packs, books by David Cottrell and Kevin McCarr respectively, combine well-written player profiles and a realistic view of each country's World Cup history, but are boxed with a disappointing collection of stickers and face passes.

The inserts that accompany Scotland in the World Cup Finals, by Graham McColl, another above-average effort, are far more interesting, not to say surreal, including as they do a replica of the media pass of Ally MacLeod, the Scotland manager, for the World Cup in Argentina in 1978.

In those pre-Nick Hornby days, the idea of a compilation of memoirs and short stories by poets and novelists subtitled "New Writing For The World Cup" would have seemed just as surreal. Nowadays, The Agony and the Ecstasy, 24 slices of football fused with romance, politics and travel, seems as natural a part of football's landscape as goalkeepers not being allowed to pick up back-passes.

Last but by no means least, two books which do not bear the words World Cup, but are timely, nevertheless. Winning Isn't Everything, Dave Bowler's biography of Sir Alf Ramsey, traces the single-minded crusade to restore England to footballing greatness that Ramsey's career became, largely through interviews with the players whose loyalty he demanded. For the private man behind the clipped vowels, despite the book's title, winning was everything.

In The Beautiful Team—In Search of Pelé & the 1970 Brazilians, Garry Jenkins searches out the colourful characters who made up the most entertaining winners of the Jules Rimet trophy: not only Pelé and the great forwards, but also Felix, the goalkeeper, and the not-so-great defenders. And who knows—in another 28 years, you may be reading a review of The Beautiful Team II—in Search of David Barty & the 1998 Englishmen.

WORLD CUP READING LIST

- Gary Lineker's Golden Boots, by Gary Lineker and Stan Hey (Hodder & Stoughton, £17.99)
The Complete Book of the World Cup, by Cris Freddi (Collins Willow, £14.99)
The Story of the World Cup, by Brian Glanville (Faber and Faber, £9.99)
World Cup 98—A Complete Championship Guide, by Glen Phillips and Tim Oidham (Eccles, £4.99)
The Official England and Scotland World Cup Supporters' Packs (Carlton, £14.99)
Scotland in the World Cup Finals, by Graham McColl (Chameleon, £14.99)
The Agony and the Ecstasy, ed Nicholas Roy (Sceptre, £6.99)
Winning Isn't Everything, by Dave Bowler (Collins, £16.99)
The Beautiful Team, by Garry Jenkins (Simon & Schuster, £16.99)

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SPORT

TENNIS 54

Henman swaggers
towards showdown
with Rusedski



FRIDAY JUNE 12 1998

Disputed late penalty rescues Italy after double from Salas confirms Chile's pedigree

Baggio spots chance of atonement



FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE

ITALY got away with it. You could not give them much more than that, even though their ever-optimistic manager, Cesare Maldini, spoke of their "great reaction" after they had come from behind to force a draw in their group B match yesterday. "Perhaps we deserved more," Maldini said. "Paolo Maldini [his son] nearly got the third."

Had he done so, the injustice to Chile would have been monumental. The penalty with which Italy equalised after 84 minutes may or may not have been valid: it was one of those handling offences which will doubtless cause arguments for many years to come. When Roberto Baggio drove the ball from the right-hand side, was there no chance for the Chilean defender, Ronaldo Fuentes, to get his hand out of the way, or did he block the cross deliberately?

Baggio appealed immediately for a penalty, which was accorded him by the Nigerian referee, Lucian Bouchardau. Cesare Maldini said after the match that he had just watched the incident on television and was convinced not only that this was a clear penalty, but that Italy should have had another. For his part, the elderly Chilean manager, Nelson Acosta, accepted the blow with great sportsmanship and dignity. From where he sat, he said, it was impossible to see the exact position of the hand, but the referee had given his decision and that was that. Overall, predictably, he was very happy with his team's performance, not least, he said, because it came after a



Pagliuca, the Italy goalkeeper, is left helpless as Salas's second-half header gives Chile the lead in their World Cup group B match in Bordeaux yesterday. Photograph: Peter Mueller

16-year absence from the World Cup finals. It was somewhat strange to hear the Italian manager insist his team had "reacted well," since to the neutral onlooker they had seemed strangely demoralised by the equalising goal which Chile scored in the added minutes of the first half. This, moreover, after going ahead with the kind of early goal you might well have expected to demoralise Chile, the manifest underdogs. An excellent goal it was, too. Paolo Maldini sent a long ball upfield, Roberto Baggio exqui-

sitely released his big centre forward, Christian Vieri, and the striker calmly and easily beat Tapia. For some time to come, the game was all Italy and a second goal seemed little more than a formality. Cannavaro won a ball, found Vieri, and his shot was blocked by Tapia. Then Vieri himself and Roberto Baggio set up Roberto Di Matteo, whose shot was diverted for a corner. Midway through the half the Chileans at last began to come into it, having been largely over-run in midfield and failing to give their two accomplished strikers, Ivan Zamorano and Marcelo Salas, anything useful to work with. When Zamorano headed back a cross from Rojas, Salas with a palpable chance, headed over.

Then, out of the blue, came the Chile equaliser. Zamorano headed Estay's left-wing corner into the danger zone. Pedro Reyes touched it to Salas, and into the net it went. This really seemed to knock the stuffing out of an Italy team lacking any real pattern and rhythm. Five minutes into the second half, there was the adventurous Reyes again to put over a long right-wing cross. It looked no more than a defender's ball and Cannavaro may have thought so as it flew towards the far post. Salas jumped so majestically to beat his marker and headed past Pagliuca. Italy now seemed feebly to lose the plot. There was a moment of vigour and virtue when Roberto Baggio, exploiting a header by Vieri, shot against Tapia and the ball

went for a corner. But it was the Chileans now who were largely calling the tune, making nonsense of previous predictions that they would be outplayed in midfield and in their defence by the Italians. You could almost feel the confidence surging through

headed only just wide. Again Roberto Baggio revived Italy's hopes this time with a pass to Filippo Inzaghi, one of the three Italian substitutes. But Tapia, growing in stature by the minute, blocked the shot at point-blank range. Italy had now sent on not only Inzaghi but another striker in Enrico Chiesa, the man who had come in at the very last moment for Fabrizio Ravanello. So now Vieri was off, but there were three Italy strikers on the field, which seemed a measure of desperation rather than an indication of tactical insight. Then, in that 84th minute, Baggio obtained his penalty, and put it away himself. "I was very tired," he admitted. "I'd been running a lot and I'd just had a penalty given so I had to take some deep breaths

to compose myself. Certainly I thought of 1994 [when he was one of two Italians to miss a penalty in the shoot out which followed the World Cup final against Brazil] but it's my job to do this."



Salas celebrates

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1430

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9					
10				11		
	13	14		12		
16	17		18	19		
		20				
21				22		
23				24		

- ACROSS**
- 1 German emperor title (6)
 - 5 Very hard (gaze; resolve) (6)
 - 8 Part of cleaner: worry (4)
 - 9 Window-cleaner's scraper (8)
 - 10 Overall chief (7)
 - 11 Grind (teeth) (5)
 - 13 In malecontent mood (11)
 - 15 Certificate; wallet (arch.) (5)
 - 18 Temporary expedient (7)
 - 21 Diffuse through (8)
 - 22 Double-need instrument (4)
 - 23 Salvage (6)
 - 24 Stand-in king (6)
- DOWN**
- 2 Unable to float off (7)
 - 3 Indian stringed instrument (5)
 - 4 Remembrance herb (8)
 - 5 Retained portion of ticket (4)
 - 6 Never-ending Rome this city (7)
 - 7 Fertile, wind-deposited dust (5)
 - 12 Woolly clothing (8)
 - 14 Of earthquakes (7)
 - 15 Cavalryman: to coerce (7)
 - 17 Crinkly fabric: pancake (5)
 - 19 Time (5)
 - 20 Bag; set of arguments (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1429
ACROSS: 7 Bran 8 Oriental 9 Antennae 10 Heep 11 Sarve 13 Bowler 15 Adagio 17 Garage 19 Loom 21 Mortgage 23 Tranquil 24 Lint
DOWN: 1 Drunkard 2 Invest 3 Sown 4 Mixed bag 5 Anyhow 6 Laze 12 Enormous 14 Engaging 16 Gaming 18 Regale 20 Ogre 22 Rile

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP
NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE

Owen drives on in effort to win prized place in starting line-up

IN THE press centre they have established at the England training camp here, Michael Owen sat in the lee of a huge poster of a laughing Teddy Sheringham yesterday and talked about how much he hated losing. The last time he had been really hurt by a defeat, he admitted, was about an hour earlier. "Rio Ferdinand beat me on the driving game," he said. There was a mischievous half-smile on his face, but his words were laced with steel. There is a coolness about him that still astonishes everyone who meets him, an apparent immunity to nerves that shines through his clinical finishing and extends to the steady, clear way he answers every question. As a rival, he must be terrifying, like some sort of arrow that wings inexorably on towards its target, nothing deflecting its trajectory, nothing slowing it down, until it hits its mark. Sheringham is that target now as he and Owen fight for the right to partner Alan Shearer in attack, and the young Liverpool forward is doing everything in his power to ensure he does not feel the pain of defeat again.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, repeated yesterday that he had already decided on his line-up for his side's opening fixture of this World Cup campaign against Tunisia in Marseilles on Monday. The suspicion is that, despite the strong case that Owen has made for inclusion, despite the overwhelming feeling that he

should be given his head, Hoddle will stick with the experience of the Manchester United striker. "I want to be in the eleven," Owen said. "I wouldn't say I'm really confident of being in it. Teddy and Alan have proven very successful for England, so I would say those two are favourites. If you put me on the spot now, I would probably say maybe he will go for Teddy, but I have still got a chance. "I think I am ready. It remains to be seen who the manager picks, but no team will start with the same eleven it finishes with. But I'm like anyone, I would prefer to start a game rather than come on as a substitute. I would be disappointed if I wasn't in the starting line-up, but that's not to say I would throw in the

towel or do anything like that. Everyone's ambition throughout the squad is to play and to start the game. "I started the game against Caen on Tuesday with Shearer and it works fine as a partnership. At the start of the season, a lot of people were saying I couldn't play with Robbie Fowler at Liverpool. But if you are intelligent enough, all you need to do is play with them once to know their runs and how they play. Every striking partnership needs working on, but if you are intelligent about it, you can learn an awful lot in the first game. "I thought I played well on Tuesday. I didn't score. Paul Scholes scored but I was through one-on-one at one point and a fellow dragged me back, which would have been



Owen wants a hands-on role from the start on Monday

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